List of publications from the EP Think Tank
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Sort: Sort by relevance
Word(s): "precarious work"

469 result(s)

Creation date: 07-02-2020
Temporary contracts, precarious employment, employees’ fundamental rights and EU employment law

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-11-2017
External author: Aristea KOUKIADAKI, Senior Lecturer in Employment Law, Work and Equalities Institute, University of Manchester, UK
Ioannis KATSAROUMPAS, Lecturer in Employment Law, University of Sussex, UK

Policy area: Transposition and Implementation of Law | Employment | Petitions to the European Parliament
Keyword: working time | collective bargaining | temporary employment | labour relations | anti-discriminatory measure | part-time employment | EU Member State | labour standard | social rights | franchising | EU law | strike

Summary: This study, commissioned by the the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Petitions, was prepared to assess the nature and extent of employment precariousness in the framework of EU’s fundamental rights and EU employment law. The analysis focuses on two broad areas, namely atypical forms of employment and franchising. The report identifies a number of ‘protective gaps’ at various levels of regulation and puts forward policy recommendations that are informed by the need to adopt holistic and comprehensive action for addressing what emerges as a constantly moving target.

Study

EU and ILO: Shaping the Future of Work

Publication type: Study
Date: 12-06-2019
External author: F. Pastore, S. Gausas, I. Styczynska et al.


Summary: This Report reviews the main results of some 60 years of collaboration between the European Union (EU) and the International Labour Office (ILO) and coincides with the 100th anniversary of the ILO. Started in 1958, EU-ILO collaboration has intensified over recent years, covering an ever-greater range of issues to address the future of work and the challenges it poses to the sustainability of decent work and social protection.

This document was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee.

Study


Publication type: Study
Date: 13-07-2016
External author: Andrea Broughton et al.

Policy area: Forward Planning | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment
Keyword: new type of employment | labour law | temporary employment | part-time employment | EU Member State | full-time employment | job security | non-standard employment | self-employment | welfare | unskilled worker | EU statistics

Summary: This Policy Department A study examines precarious employment, its patterns, trends and policy strategies in Europe. It explores the risk of precariousness of different types of contract, using information from EU data analysis and literature review, as well as case studies of eight EU Member States. It finds that there are a range and degrees of risks of precariousness associated with all types of contract, based on key indicators of precariousness.

Study

Annex I

Employment in privatised utilities: A higher risk of precariousness?

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2017
External author: Andrea Broughton, Chiara Manzon

Policy area: Forward Planning | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment | Education
Keyword: wage determination | public service employee | economic liberalism | EU policy | labour relations | EU Member State | privatisation | occupational health | economic analysis | institution of public utility | temporary employment | part-time employment | mental stress

Summary: This paper explores the risk of precarious work in privatised utilities, based on data analysis and literature review. It examines the history of privatisation of utilities in the EU including programme countries and the impact that this has had on levels of employment. Moreover, it presents a range of measures to cushion adverse effects.

This document was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee.

Study
The employment and social situation in Croatia

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2019
External author: Iva TOMIĆ, Ivica RUBIL, Danijel NESTIĆ, Paul STUBBS
Policy area: Social Policy | Employment
Summary: This study provides an overview of the main developments in the area of employment and social affairs in Croatia, including relevant legislative and policy measures as well as the role of social partners and social dialogue. It also addresses the use of EU funds in combating unemployment in Croatia and the priorities of Croatia’s upcoming Presidency of the EU. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the European Parliament’s Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
Study: EN

The Social Protection of Workers in the Platform Economy

Publication type: Study
Date: 07-12-2017
External author: Chris FORDE, Mark STUART, Simon JOYCE, Liz OLIVER, Danat VALIZADE, Gabriella ALBERTI, Kate HARDY, Vera TRAPPMANN, Charles UMNEY, Calum CARSON, Centre for Employment Relations Innovation and Change (CERIC), University of Leeds, UK; Justyna KATJA, Gabriela YORDANOVA
Policy area: European Added Value | Forward Planning | Social Policy | Transposition and Implementation of Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment
Keyword: collective bargaining | digital single market | labour relations | social rights | social security legislation | social-security harmonisation | working conditions | case law (EU) | free movement of workers | working time | collaborative economy | demographic analysis | mental stress
Summary: This study investigates the social protection of workers in the platform economy at the request of the European Parliament’s Employment and Social Affairs Committee. The report reviews literature and previous research on the platform economy with the aims of defining it and developing a typology for understanding its nature. It discusses the growth and drivers of the platform economy, as well as benefits and challenges for workers, reporting findings from 50 interviews conducted with expert stakeholders in eight European countries and from an original survey of 1,200 platform workers. It dissects the different normative layers that need to be considered when looking at the challenges of social protection of platform workers from a legal perspective. Finally, the report draws conclusions and makes recommendations concerning arrangements for the provision of social protection for workers in this growing sector of the economy.
Study: EN
Executive summary: ES, DE, FR, IT, PL
Annex I: EN

Commitments made at the hearings of the Commissioners-designate - von der Leyen Commission 2019-2024

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 25-11-2019
Summary: This document is a compilation of salient points and essential commitments made by the Vice-Presidents- and Commissioners-designate at their respective hearings before the European Parliament. It is intended to provide you with a practical and concise tool to follow-up on the efforts and actions of the future Commission. For an exhaustive list of all commitments made and positions taken by the candidates, the full verbatim report of each public hearing is available on the dedicated hearings website of the European Parliament, as are the written questions and answers.
Briefing: DE, EN, FR, IT

Research for AGRI committee - The EU farming employment: current challenges and future prospects (Study + Annex)

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2019
External author: A. Maucorps; A. Münch; S. Brkanovic; B. Schuh; J. Dwyer; M. Vigani; A. Khafagy; M. Coto Sauras; P. Deschellette; A. Lopez; S. Severini; F. Antonioli; R. Gaugitsch; J. Powell; K. Kubinakova; M. Derszniak-Noirjean; C. Salasan; M. Gaupp-Berghausen; C.-H. Hsiung; F. Fasching; F. Keringer
Policy area: Social Policy | Employment | Agriculture and Rural Development | Regional Development
Summary: This study outlines the current trends and patterns of farming employment in the EU and discusses possible development paths for the European agricultural labour force. In particular, this study investigates the drivers of and structural changes within agricultural labour markets at regional, national and EU level, building on a range of quantitative and qualitative analysis methods.
Study: EN
Annex I: EN
Mitigating labour market dualism: Single Open-Ended Contracts and other instruments

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2018

External author: Werner Eichhorst, IZA and University of Bremen
Paul Marx, University of Duisburg-Essen, SDU and IZA
Andrea Broughton, Ecorys UK
Paul de Beer, University Amsterdam / AIAS et. al.


Keyword: labour market | temporary employment | EU Member State | work contract | economic analysis

Summary: This Policy Department A study prepared at request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee examines the incidence of temporary forms of working in Europe, transitions to permanent work and the types of reform options that could help to mitigate labour market dualism. It explores labour market reforms aimed at combatting dualism in eight Member States. On this basis, it concludes that overall, further evaluation and recalibration of employment policy, taking into account post-reform experiences, would be advisable; better communication from could governments help overcome employer hiring reluctance; and human-capital oriented ALMPs should complement any strategy to tackle segmentation.

Study EN

The cost of non-Europe in the area of legal migration

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-03-2019

Author: Wouter VAN BALLEGOOIJ | Elodie THIRION

Policy area: European Added Value | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Social Policy | Employment | Development and Humanitarian Aid

Summary: Further EU action in the area of legal migration could address obstacles experienced by Third Country Nationals within the European Union. Depending on the policy option pursued these options could result in up to €21,75 billion in benefits. Further gains could be made by addressing the fragmented national policies in this area, which are currently undermining ability of the EU as a whole to attract the workers and researchers it needs.

Study EN

Legal migration to the EU

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 07-03-2019

Author: KATRIEN LUYTEN

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword: third country | migration control | EU migration policy | immigration | occupational migration | family migration | educational exchange | admission of aliens | foreign national | external border of the EU | scientific exchange | Frontex

Summary: Entering the EU as a non-European is not too difficult for people from stable countries. Those planning to visit one or more EU Member States can get in as a tourist, with or without a visa. If the intention is to live and work for a longer period, they can use the many possibilities offered by labour migration. Regular mobility schemes also include provisions for other categories such as students, researchers, au pairs and voluntary workers. People wishing to join a family member who is already residing legally in the EU might even be eligible for family reunification. However, for people coming from countries at war or where democracy is in serious peril, or who happen to live in a non-EU country after fleeing their own country, or who are simply looking for a better life, the options are more limited. Moreover, even when options exist, gaining access to them is not always possible for people who find themselves in precarious, dangerous or even life-threatening situations. In 2015, a record number of people tried to reach Europe by all means, often risking their lives along their journeys. Although the number of irregular arrivals in the EU is back to pre-crisis levels, immigration remains one of the key concerns of European citizens and is expected to remain a challenge for years to come. In order to address this challenge, the EU has embarked on a process of reform aimed at rebuilding its common asylum policies on fairer and more solid ground, strengthening its external borders by reinforcing the links between border controls and security, and renewing cooperation with third countries on migration issues. A forward-looking and comprehensive European immigration policy, based on solidarity and respect for European values, requires a balanced approach to dealing with both irregular and legal migration. The EU is committed to help create more, safe and controlled channels to migration both to help people in need of protection and to address labour market needs and skills shortages adequately.

Briefing EN

Skills for the labour market: EU policies for VET and upskilling

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-09-2019

External author: Terence Hogarth, Fondazione G. Brodolino


Summary: The note analyses changing skills demands on the labour market and their implications for vocational education and training (VET) policies as well as for upskilling of adults in the EU.

Briefing EN
Financial Stability in the Euro Area: Assessment of Risks and Policy Options

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-01-2020
External author: Zsolt DARVAS, Marta DOMÍNGUEZ-JIMÉNEZ, Guntram B. WOLFF, Christopher A. HARTWELL, Salomon FIEDLER, Klaus-Jürgen GERN, Christophe BLOT, Jérôme CREEL, Paul HUBERT
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary: In November 2019, the ECB published its semi-annual Financial Stability Review that identified a number of risks for the euro area financial system. The Monetary Expert Panel was asked to produce four papers reflecting on these (and other) risks and available policy options. This publication is provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

Employment in the cultural and creative sectors

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 23-10-2019
Author: Magdalena PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS
Policy area: Culture | Employment

Summary: Statistical data confirm the continued rise in the contribution of culture and art to the economy and employment in the EU and worldwide. An analysis of labour market data for culture and arts professionals provides an insight into the nature of the employment and livelihood which the sector provides. However, it points to frequent incidence of short-term contracts, part-time jobs and seasonal employment, two or more parallel jobs for people with university diplomas, and this employment situation is frequently qualified as precarious. Culture is a specific domain characterised both by its business model, and its underlying nature of activity related to creativity, identity and self-expression. This combination of very material, financial, and transcendental aspects makes for unique employment conditions in this sector, with two divergent requirements: economic results and contribution to self-expression, well-being, social cohesion, and identity. Cultural works are often copyrighted, providing a source of revenue for cultural professionals. Revenue structure in the sector is complex due to the international mobility of cultural professionals and artists. For instance, such revenues are subject to taxes and can result in double taxation or taxation of people who do not reach the minimum threshold and thus lose their income unduly. The number of cultural professionals and artists is growing steadily, while their employment conditions become more and more unstable. This situation spreads to other sectors and needs to be addressed both in terms of social security and benefits, and revenues and taxation aspects. The EU competence in cultural, social and employment policies is limited, consisting of guidance and coordination without any possibility of harmonisation. However, since cultural professionals' EU mobility is sought after and considered important for the preservation of Europe's cultural diversity, the above-mentioned problems need to be addressed at EU level. The European Commission, Council and Parliament are aware of the situation and approach it from an employment and tax perspective. Cultural education policy could help strengthen the demand for cultural services, contributing to better employment and training of professionals in the sector.

EYE event - Youth unemployment: The race to zero

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 16-05-2018
Author: Marie LECERF
Policy area: Employment
Keyword: youth unemployment | labour mobility | long-term unemployment | European Social Fund | EU initiative | youth employment | Eurostat | EU statistics

Summary: Young people in Europe are eager to move up, to work and to participate in society, but more than 3.6 million of them are in a precarious position. How can we reduce youth unemployment to close to zero within the coming years? Has Europe taken decisive action for a real crackdown?

Precarious employment in Europe: patterns, trends and policy strategies

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 23-08-2016
Author: Susanne KRAATZ
External author: Andrea Broughton, Werner Eichhorst et al.
Policy area: Forward Planning | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment

Summary: This note by Policy Department A gives a summary of the study "Precarious employment in Europe: Patterns, trends and policy strategies". The study explores the risk of precariousness of different types of contract, using a set of indicators with a connection to quality of work. It finds that so-called "standard" contracts show the lowest risk levels, but have been continuously decreasing over the last decade. In the longer term they may be outnumbered by other types of employment relationships.
Fighting child poverty: The child guarantee
Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-09-2019
External author: Mary Daly, University of Oxford
Policy area: Culture | Forward Planning | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment | Education | Human Rights
Summary: The note covers existing evidence on the volume and nature of child poverty, knowledge on the consequences and effects of child poverty, the known effectiveness of the main social policy approaches to child poverty, assessment of the 2013 Recommendation on Investing in Children and the Child Guarantee. It concludes with suggestions for future priorities for the Guarantee.

The professional status of rural women in the EU
Publication type: Study
Date: 27-05-2019
External author: Ramona FRANIĆ, Tihana KOVAČIĆEK
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, gives an overview of the professional status of rural women in the EU, as well as their employment situation and position in the labour market in rural areas in most relevant Member States. The study provides identification of the best practices implemented in the Member States and concludes with policy recommendations on the improvement of the employment situation and legal status of women living in rural areas of the EU.

Research for CULT Committee - Education and youth in the European Union – Current challenges and future prospects
Publication type: Study
Date: 02-09-2019
Policy area: Education
Summary: This study examines possible scenarios (both aspirational and disruptive) for future developments for the education and youth sectors. It also identifies and assesses the policy implications of these scenarios. Ultimately, the study informs EU policy-makers, in particular MEPs, on policy options and their implications for the education and youth sectors in the EU, and seeks to help them prepare for the scenarios identified (both in terms of facing challenges and embracing opportunities).

Regulating working conditions - EU employment law outlook and challenges
Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-09-2019
External author: Frank Hendrickx
Summary: The note highlights the main features of European labour and employment law, analyses the gaps in current competences and legislation and looks at the challenges for labour law in the future.

The integration of Refugees in Denmark, Finland and France
Publication type: Study
Date: 15-03-2019
External author: Manuela SAMEK LODOVICI, Serena Marianna DRUFUCA, Anthea GALEA
Policy area: Forward Planning | Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment | Education
Summary: This study presents a comparative overview of recent policy developments in Denmark, Finland and France. The focus of the analysis is on progress achieved in the last three years in the adaptation of the reception and integration system for the high numbers of new arrivals and on the main challenges encountered. Special attention is given to changes in perceptions, public opinion and political discourse with respect to the asylum and integration of refugees and how this influenced policy strategy. The study has been commissioned by Policy Department A at the request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee.

Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
Achievements of the Committee on Petitions during the 2014-2019 parliamentary term and challenges for the future

Publication type: Study  
Date: 03-07-2019  
Author: JOHANNES HEEZEN | Ottavio MARZOCCHI  
Policy area: Petitions to the European Parliament  
Summary: During the 2014-19 parliamentary term the European Union and notably the European Parliament, through its dedicated Committee on Petitions (PETI), has continued to uphold the right of citizens to petition the EP to raise issues and concerns and to call for redress and action in areas of EU competence, by mobilising institutions and Member States both on issues at the centre of the political debate, and on “orphan” or “dormant” issues. With the aim of better serving EU citizens, the Committee on Petitions has developed a Petitions Web Portal, adopted new and updated Guidelines, created a Petitions Network and a special Working Group on Child Welfare Issues. PETI continued to examine a high number of petitions raising issues in all areas of EU activity. In the 9th legislature, PETI could strengthen its achievements by exploring innovative ways to achieve effective solutions for the petitioners.

Study: ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL

Ensuring high-quality job creation from EU funding programmes: How can the best practice of Horizon 2020 be better integrated into other programmes (ESF, Youth Guarantee, Globalisation Fund)?

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-05-2018  
External author: Ms Joanna HOFMAN (RAND Europe)  
Mr Matteo BARBERI (RAND Europe)  
Ms Milda BUTKUTE (RAND Europe)  
Mr Dovydas CATURIANAS (PPMI Group)  
Mr Martin SACHER (Institute of Political Science, Université du Luxembourg)  
Dr Sashka DIMOVA (RAND Europe)  
Ms Katherine STEWART (RAND Europe)  
Policy area: Budget | Research Policy | Budgetary Control | Employment  
Keyword: European social policy | economic policy | job creation | Framework Programme for Research and Development | EU initiative | distribution of EU funding  
Summary: This study examines four EU funds and programmes in how they support job creation and quality employment. It also assesses the methodologies and indicators used to measure job quality and it identifies lessons and recommendations to improve current practices.

Study: EN  
Executive summary: ES, DE, FR, IT, PL

Country-Specific Recommendations for 2018 and 2019 - A tabular comparison and an overview of implementation

Publication type: Study  
Date: 02-09-2019  
Author: Jost ANGERER | MATTEO CIUCCI  
Policy area: European Semester | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues  
Summary: This document presents:  
• The 2019 Country-Specific Recommendations proposed by the European Commission on 5 June 2019 and adopted by the Council on 9 July 2019 and  
• The European Commission’s assessments of the implementation of the 2018 Country-Specific Recommendations based on its Country Reports published on 27 February 2019.  
• The 2018 Country-Specific Recommendations proposed by the European Commission on 23 May 2018 and adopted by the Council on 13 July 2018. This study was provided by the Economic Governance Support Unit (EGOV).

Study: EN

European Platform for tackling undeclared work

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 23-03-2016  
Author: Monika KISS  
Policy area: Employment | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
Keyword: economic consequence | principle of subsidiarity | labour inspectorate | fraud | moonlighting | administrative cooperation | economic offence | self-employment | underground economy | EU employment policy | proposal (EU)  
Summary: Undeclared work affects both the individual and society. It deprives workers of their necessary social and health protection and imposes precarious working conditions on them. At the same time, it creates unfair competition for companies, and damages public finances and social security systems. For these reasons, the European Commission proposed on 9 April 2014 the creation of a European Platform against undeclared work to support and coordinate the Member States’ efforts in preventing, deterring and fighting undeclared work. Following a round of trilogue meetings at which the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council debated whether or not membership of the Platform should be mandatory for Member States, the extent of its competences and who its members should be, an agreement was forged which was subsequently adopted by Parliament in February 2016. Second edition. The ‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing: EN

07-02-2020  
Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
**FEMM Delegation to Croatia**

**Publication type:** Briefing  
**Date:** 15-01-2020

**Author:** Martina SCHONARD

**Policy area:** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

**Summary:** Briefing made up by the Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs of the EP to the attention of the FEMM Committee’s delegation to Croatia in January 2020.

**Briefing EN**

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**The Platform Economy [What Think Tanks are thinking]**

**Publication type:** Briefing  
**Date:** 16-02-2018

**Author:** Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI

**Policy area:** Economics and Monetary Issues

**Keyword:** digital single market | Internet | collaborative economy | consumer protection | think tank | tourism | artificial intelligence | data protection | literature

**Summary:** The digital revolution is reshaping the world, changing people’s habits in communication, work, leisure and politics. A major part of this revolution is the expansion of the economy based on digital platforms that match demand and supply for labour without an intermediation of traditional corporations. Platforms also allow people to socialise regardless of geographic distance, find entertainment and travel opportunities easily, and do many other things. Some well-known platforms are Google, Twitter, LinkedIn, Apple, Amazon, Uber and Airbnb. While offering vast opportunities to the economy, platforms are also posing tough challenges, for example, in fostering often-precarious, project-based forms of employment at the expense of stable contracts with social security protection, or putting pressure on traditional news media. This note brings together commentaries and studies by international think tanks and research institutes on the role of digital platforms, notably in labour markets, and related issues.

**Briefing EN**

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**Skills development and employment: Apprenticeships, internships and volunteering**

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 14-04-2017

**External author:** Simon Broekhi, Terence Hogarth, Liga Baltina, Amerigo Lombardi (Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini)

**Policy area:** Forward Planning | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment | Education

**Keyword:** labour market | access to education | updating of skills | apprenticeship | job creation | Framework Programme for Research and Development | voluntary work | EU initiative | fight against unemployment | small and medium-sized enterprises

**Summary:** This study discusses participation, outcomes, quality and challenges of apprenticeships, internships/traineeships and volunteering schemes. Though important, all three forms face challenges that need attention in the related existing and planned EU-level initiatives (such as the planned Quality Framework for Apprenticeships). Issues concern, for example, providing clarity on the employment status (mainly for apprenticeships) and on fair remuneration, thus limiting the risk of being sources for cheap labour.

The note was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) to support the Committee’s work on the New Skills Agenda.

**Study EN**

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**Executive summary DE, EN, FR**

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**The Euro at 20: Successes, Problems, Progress and Threats**

**Publication type:** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date:** 30-01-2019

**External author:** Professor Karl Whelan

**Policy area:** Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Economics and Monetary Issues

**Summary:** The euro project has had a difficult second decade but it is worth remembering its successes. The ECB has successfully achieved its primary goal of price stability and the common currency is popular among the euro area’s citizens. This popularity has made the euro more resilient than many people thought possible twenty years ago. A significant number of improvements have been made to the architecture of EMU, have been implemented in the past decade but serious problems remain, relating to fiscal capacity, sovereign default and financial stability. To keep the euro together, Europe’s politicians need to make the euro area less crisis-prone and also an easier place to be during the inevitable cyclical downturns that will happen in the future. The economics profession has provided many plans for future improvements. It is up to Europe’s politicians to implement them.

This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

**In-Depth Analysis EN**
### Research for CULT Committee - Culture and creative sectors in the European Union – Key future developments, challenges and opportunities

**Publication type** | Study  
--- | ---  
**Date** | 28-08-2019  
**External author** | KEA European Affairs: Clémentine Daubeuf, Arthur Le Gall, Teodora Plietosu, Marianthi Kopellou; PPMI: Donatas Pocius, Olha Koshchiyenko, Rasa Goštautaitė  
**Policy area** | Culture | Education  
**Summary** | Culture and creative sectors (CCS) are confronted with an ever-changing environment which challenges practices, business models and market balances. This study highlights the key trends that are likely to impact the future development of the CCS in their operational context in the European Union by 2030.  
**Study** | **EN**  
**Executive summary** | **ES, DE, EN, FR, IT**

### Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors - A Rolling Check-list of recent findings

**Publication type** | Study  
--- | ---  
**Date** | 28-02-2019  
**Author** | Gabriella ZANA-SZABO | RONNIE JOHANNES KORVER  
**Summary** | This rolling checklist presents an overview of the European Court of Auditors’ (ECA) special reports, concentrating on those relevant for the 2017 discharge procedure. It strives to link the research topics of the special reports to the relevant debates and positions within the European Parliament, including the working documents of the Committee on Budgetary Control, the work of the specialised parliamentary committees, plenary resolutions and individual questions by Members.  
**Study** | **EN**

### EURO AT 20: BACKGROUND READER COLLECTION OF STUDIES AND ASSESSMENTS

**Publication type** | Study  
--- | ---  
**Date** | 13-02-2019  
**Author** | WOLFGANG LEHOFER | Dario PATERNOSTER  
**External author** | R.M.Lastra, CEPS, K.Whelan, M.Dabrovski, Sciences Po-OFCE et al.  
**Policy area** | European Semester | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues  
**Summary** | This publication is a collection of studies and assessment papers, originally prepared at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament. It aims to provide background-reading materials for the members of European Parliament and members of national parliaments participating in the Parliamentary week 2019 focusing on the Euro@20 debate.  
**Study** | **EN**

### Employment, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Social Policies in Italy

**Publication type** | Study  
--- | ---  
**Date** | 15-10-2018  
**External author** | Manuela Samek Lodovici, Chiara Crepaldi, Nicola Orlando, IRS Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale; Gianluigi Nico, University of Rome Tor Vergata; Davide Romaniello, University of Rome Tre  
**Policy area** | Social Policy | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues | Education  
**Summary** | This document presents recent developments in the social, employment and VET situation and policies in Italy. The report provides an assessment of the recent evolution of key economic, social, and labour market trends in Italy, and an overview of current employment, VET and social policies. The document was prepared at the request of the European Parliament’s Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL).  
**Study** | **EN**
Commitments made at the hearing of Helena DALLI, Commissioner-designate - Equality

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 22-11-2019  
Author: Susanne KRAATZ | Martina SCHONARD  
Policy area: Forward Planning | Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment | Public Health  
Summary: The commissioner-designate, Helena Dalli, appeared before the European Parliament on 02 October 2019 to answer questions from MEPs in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. During the hearing, she made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to her portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to her by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including:
- Fight against discrimination;
- Rights of Persons with Disability;
- European Gender Strategy;
- Work–Life Balance Directive;
- International Partnerships: Empowering women and girls;
- Cooperating with the European Parliament and with other Commissioners.

Vulnerable social groups: Before and after the crisis

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 11-07-2016  
Author: Monika KISS  
Policy area: Social Policy | Employment  
Keyword: poverty | single parent | EU growth strategy | marginalisation | undernourishment | homelessness | social integration | gender equality | aid to disadvantaged groups | social impact | European social policy | worker with disabilities | economic recession | working poor  
Summary: ‘Vulnerable social groups’ are groups of people considered to be at risk of poverty or social exclusion because of physical disabilities, age factors, ethnic origins, lack of housing, or substance abuse. These people, who were already struggling with financial, social and employment difficulties before the 2008 economic crisis, have become further disadvantaged, and the gap between them and the rest of society has grown even wider. Three subgroups stand out as being most affected by the European economic and financial crisis. The number of people experiencing in-work poverty is rising, with economic constraints forcing them to work in increasingly precarious jobs or obliging them to accept self-employed status. Disabled people, already confronted by barriers hindering their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others, have, as a result of the crisis, lost a great deal of social, economic and mobility support and their chances of re-entering the labour market have diminished. Finally, changes in family structure mean that the number of single parents, especially single mothers, has increased in recent years. These parents struggle to achieve a work-life balance on account of their multiple obligations, and as a group they are also suffering from the effects of the crisis. The situation of vulnerable groups has been of concern to the European institutions for the last decade, from the point of view of poverty as well as of labour market participation and gender equality.

Country Specific Recommendations for 2017 and 2018 - A tabular comparison and an overview of implementation

Publication type: Study  
Date: 20-03-2019  
Author: Jost ANGERER | JAANIKA TIIDO | MATTEO CIUCCI  
Policy area: European Semester | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues  
Keyword: economic convergence | employment policy | budgetary equilibrium | EU Member State | financial control | public debt | stability programme | economic disparity | multilateral surveillance  
Summary: This study presents the 2017 Country-Specific Recommendations generally endorsed by the European Council of 22/23 June 2017 and adopted by the Council of 11 July 2017; the assessment of the implementation of 2017 Country-Specific Recommendations based on the Commission Country Reports published on 7 March 2018; the 2018 Country-Specific Recommendations proposed by the European Commission on 23 May 2018 and adopted by the Council on 13 July 2018; the European Commission's assessments of the implementation of the 2018 Country-Specific Recommendations based on its Country Reports published on 27 February 2019; the Council Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area approved by the Council of 23 January 2018.
Minimum income policies in EU Member states

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
<th>Study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>14-04-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>External author</td>
<td>Chiara CREPALDI, Barbara DA ROIT, Claudio CASTEGNARO, Sergio PASQUINELLI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy area</td>
<td>European Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keyword</td>
<td>poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>This document was prepared by Policy Department A for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs to feed into its own-initiative report on “Minimum income policies as a tool to tackle poverty”. It is an update of the previous two studies published in 2007 and in 2011. It provides updated facts and figures on minimum schemes across EU Member States since 2010, an overview of the evolution of poverty and social exclusion and a summary of recent debates across Europe.</td>
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Women in political decision-making in view of the next European elections

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
<th>Study</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>21-02-2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>External author</td>
<td>Katie MCCRACKEN, Opcit Research, Dr Ana FITZSIMONS, Opcit Research, Sergio MARQUEZ, Opcit Research, Malgorzata DRUCIAREK, Opcit Research, Prof Milica Antić Gaber, University of Ljubljana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy area</td>
<td>Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>This study was commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee. It provides analysis of women’s representation within the European Parliament and European Union institutions, key factors affecting gender balance among elected representatives, and strategies and actions to promote gender balance. It also presents case studies of three Member States conducted through the lens of parity democracy, and issues recommendations for political parties, Member States, and EU institutions.</td>
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Ensuring more transparent and predictable working conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
<th>Briefing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>11-04-2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Monika KISS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy area</td>
<td>Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword</td>
<td>impact study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>An employer's obligation to inform their employees on the conditions applicable to their contracts is regulated by Directive 91/533/EEC. Major shifts in the labour market due to demographic trends and digitalisation, spawning a growing number of non-standard employment relationships, have made it necessary to revise the directive. The European Commission has responded to the need for change with a proposal aimed at updating and extending the information on employment-related obligations and working conditions, and at creating new minimum standards for all employed workers, including those on atypical contracts. In the European Parliament, the Committee for Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) has adopted a report focused on the scope of the directive, on employees' working hours and the conditions for making information available to them, and on employers' responsibilities. The provisional agreement concluded in trilogue between European Parliament and the Council negotiators sets, among other things, new rules on the scope of the directive, the date of providing information, the length of probationary periods, and regulates working conditions in the case of variable working schedules. This agreement now needs to be approved by Parliament in plenary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The vulnerability of women migrant workers in agriculture and the EU: the need for a Human Rights and Gender based approach

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-05-2018

External author: Dr. Letizia PALUMBO
Dr. Alessandra SCIURBA


Keyword: Spain | asylum seeker | female migrant | minimum pay | EU strategy | EU migration policy | farming sector | right of asylum | slavery | trafficking in human beings | working conditions

Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality, explores the working conditions of migrant women in agriculture in the EU, focusing on some case studies in Italy and Spain. In particular, it aims to examine the factors that render women vulnerable to exploitation, paying attention to gendered dynamics and power relations. The study contends that to prevent and combat exploitation in agriculture it is necessary to implement concerted actions aimed at tackling, from a human rights and gender perspective, the structural factors of a socio-economic system which fosters and relies on workers’ vulnerability.

Study EN

Employment and working conditions in EU civil aviation

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-04-2016

Author: Maria Niestadt

Policy area: Transport | Employment

Keyword: pay | working time | collective bargaining | crew | civil aviation | common transport policy | working conditions | outsourcing | air safety | work contract | airline

Summary: Aviation is a strategically important sector of the EU economy, contributing €110 billion directly and €300 billion indirectly to EU GDP, and employing around 1.9 million persons directly. If impacts on other industries such as tourism are taken into account, then it can be said that aviation supports up to 9 million jobs. These jobs are not evenly spread across the EU: three quarters of air transport employment is centred in Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. Since the EU liberalised the aviation market in the early 1990s, the industry has gone through notable changes which have also had an impact on employment and working conditions. For instance, outsourcing has increased; some workers have had to operate from airline bases where they do not live; income has become more variable; many have been laid off and those remaining in work have had to increase their productivity. Furthermore, next to full-time permanent contracts, atypical forms of employment such as agency work, self-employment, zero-hour contracts and pay-to-fly schemes have increasingly been used, especially for younger staff and new entrants to the workforce. Persons employed under such schemes often have more precarious working conditions and are generally less likely to be unionised. EU institutions have repeatedly examined working conditions in civil aviation. Some Members of the European Parliament, as well as of the European Economic and Social Committee, have expressed concerns about the use of atypical forms of employment and multiplication of airlines’ home bases. Although the aviation strategy that the European Commission published at the end of 2015 deals with working conditions, it did not present any new legislative initiative on this issue.

Briefing EN

The UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Climate Action Summit, New York, 23-25 September 2019

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 12-09-2019

External author: Elisabeth HEGE, David LEVAÏ (IDDRI)

Policy area: Environment | Social Policy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Summary: The United Nations (UN) High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 24-25 September 2019 is a one-and-a-halfday event that for the first time since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) takes place under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (GA). This special event, called the SDG Summit, will be a litmus test for the 2030 Agenda. Ending a four-year review cycle of all 17 SDGs, the Summit will enable a first assessment of the progress achieved so far and the challenges ahead. So far, there has been a lack of political leadership and guidance at the international level.

Briefing EN
Fit for purpose? The Facilitation Directive and the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants: 2018 update

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-12-2018

External author:
Sergio CARRERA (scientific coordinator), CEPS and the Migration Policy Centre – European University Institute
Lina VOSYLIUTE, CEPS
Stephanie SMIALOWSKI, CEPS
Dr Jennifer ALLSOPP, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Migration Leadership Team, London International Development Centre, SOAS University of London
Gabriella SANCHEZ, Migration Policy Centre – European University Institute

Policy area:

Keyword:
offence | impact study | organised crime | fight against crime | approximation of laws | EU Member State | trafficking in human beings | EC Directive | illegal migration | penalty | human rights

Summary:
This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the PETI Committee, aims to update the 2016 study "Fit for purpose? The Facilitation Directive and the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants". It takes stock of and examines the latest developments that have taken place since 2016, specifically the legislative and policy changes, along with various forms and cases of criminalisation of humanitarian actors, migrants' family members and basic service providers. The study uses the notion of 'policing humanitarianism' to describe not only cases of formal prosecution and sentencing in criminal justice procedures, but also wider dynamics of suspicion, intimidation, harassment and disciplining in five selected Member States – Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary and Italy. Policing humanitarianism negatively affects EU citizens' rights – such as the freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience. When civil society is effectively (self-)silenced and its accountability role undermined, policies to combat migrant smuggling may be overused and give rise to serious breaches of the EU's founding values, notably the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights. Moreover, policing humanitarianism negatively affects wider societal trust and diverts the limited resources of law enforcement from investigating more serious crimes.

Study EN

Labour mobility and recognition in the regulated professions (Study + Annex I - IV)

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-03-2019

External author:
Milieu consulting, SPRL

Policy area:
Transposition and Implementation of Law | Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Education

Summary:
This study analyses the impact on labour mobility and employment of the 2013 revision of the Professional Qualifications Directive (DIR 2005/36) and related EU initiatives. It analyses trends in mobility and recognition, focussing on the health sector and four country case studies- Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Romania. It reports findings from consultations with stakeholders at EU and national level and highlights best practice. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the European Parliament’s Employment and Social Affairs Committee.

Study EN
Annex I EN
Annex II EN
Annex III EN
Annex IV EN

Children's rights in the EU: Marking 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 13-11-2019

Author:
Ingeborg ODINK

Policy area:
Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary:
Adopted in 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was the first international instrument to explicitly recognise children as human beings with innate rights. Ratified by 197 countries, including all EU Member States, it has become the landmark treaty on children's rights, outlining universal standards for the care, treatment, survival, development, protection and participation of all children. The promotion and protection of children's rights is one of the key objectives embedded in Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). Moreover, Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU recognises that children are entitled to 'protection and care as is necessary for their well-being'. The same article recognises that the child's best interests should be the primary consideration for public authorities and private institutions. Over the years, the EU has moved from a sectoral approach towards a more coherent policy approach. Whereas initially, children's rights were developed in relation to specific areas such as the free movement of persons, since 2000 the EU has taken a more coordinated line. This Briefing takes stock of the most recent EU action to address and promote children's rights and looks at the upcoming challenges.

Briefing EN
EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Promoting equality between women and men

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 28-06-2019
Author: Rosamund SHREEVES | Martina PRPIC
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: sexual violence | job application | EU Member State | work-life balance | working conditions | directive (EU) | gender equality | equal treatment | employment policy | anti-discriminatory measure | equal pay | job access | distribution of EU funding

Summary: The European Union (EU) is committed to eliminating inequalities and promoting gender equality 'in all its activities' and has made considerable advances over the years. Nevertheless, the situation remains uneven across the EU, and in recent times progress has slowed, stalled or even regressed in some areas. Yet, the evidence points clearly to the benefits of gender equality for individuals, the economy and society as a whole. Public opinion surveys show that a large majority of Europeans agree that promoting gender equality is important for a fair and democratic society, the economy and for them personally and that a growing share of citizens would like the EU to do more in this area. Europeans also expect increased EU action on related policies. During the last legislative term, as part of a broader gender equality programme, the EU institutions have been working on proposals for new EU laws to improve work-life balance and combat violence against women. Promoting equality between women and men will remain one of the major challenges in the coming years. Demographic trends, technological developments and changes to the way we work are just some of the issues where different impacts on women and men will need to be considered. Options for further EU involvement could include better implementation and enforcement of existing legislation, moves to modernise it, fill gaps in protection and address emerging issues, and non-legislative measures such as data collection and monitoring, awareness-raising, and support for national and grassroots initiatives. It will require the political will at all levels to tackle issues across a broad spectrum of policies, together with the provision of the necessary institutions, tools and resources to put that resolve into action. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

Access to maternal healthcare and midwifery for vulnerable groups in the EU

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-04-2019
External author: Ms Konstantina Davaki, London School of Economics, London, UK
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee examines issues related to access of vulnerable social groups to maternal health care services and midwifery in the EU. As the study points out, this access is affected by the interplay of health systems, law, policies, socio-economic factors and attitudes of health professionals and users which leads to barriers to access and consequently to worse health outcomes for those women, as evidence demonstrates. This study critically discusses the issues, analyses the causes, surveys the literature for best practices and makes policy recommendations, aiming at improving the situation for vulnerable women and contributing to reduction of health inequalities.

Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
Discrimination and access to employment for female workers with disabilities

Publication type: Study
Date: 22-06-2017

External author: Istituto per la ricerca sociale: Manuela Samek Lodovici, Nicola Orlando, Daniela Loi, Serena Marianna Drufuca, Flavia Pesce
Country experts: Denmark: Bent Greve; France: Anne Eydoux; Germany: Flavia Pesce; Italy: Flavia Pesce; Poland: Malgorzata Grabarek and Izabela Przybysz; Spain: Elvira González Gago and Nuria Guilló Rodríguez


Keyword: sexual discrimination | approximation of laws | equal treatment | discrimination based on disability | job access | women's rights | integration of the disabled

Summary: The aim of this study is to exploit existing data and information on the access of women with disabilities to the labour market, in order to assess how multiple discrimination – gender and disability – affects the employment opportunities of these women.

In addition, the study analyses whether and how the EU legislative and national policy frameworks address the multiple discrimination faced by women with disabilities. This combines a gender mainstreaming approach, such as the internalisation of a gender perspective in all disability policies and legislation, with specific measures targeted to women with disabilities. The study also includes clear indications on implementation and monitoring mechanisms. The analysis is based on available European comparative data and in-depth analysis of seven European Member States.

Study EN
Annex I EN
Annex II EN
Annex III EN
Annex IV EN
Annex V EN
Annex VI EN
Annex VII EN
Annex VIII EN

Detecting and protecting victims of trafficking in hotspots

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-07-2019

Author: Amandine Marie Anne SCHERRER


Summary: This study focuses on the issue of trafficking in human beings in the specific context of hotspots. It analyses the processes in place to facilitate the detection of victims when they arrive by sea on Greek and Italian shores, as well as the protection they are granted.

Study EN
Mainstreaming Employment and Social Indicators into Macroeconomic Surveillance

Publication type: Study
Date: 03-02-2016

External author: Manuela SAMEK LODOVICI (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale), Chiara CREPALDI (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale), Flavia PESCE (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale), Sonja BEKKER (Tilburg University), Claudio LUCIFORA (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore), Davide BARBIERI (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale), Serena Marianna DRUFUCA (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale), Irene ZANCANARO (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale), Kari HADJIVASSILIOUTI (Country expert Greece and UK), Mika VIDLUND (Country expert Finland), Elvira GONZALES (Country expert Spain) and Irena KOTOWSKA (Country expert Poland)


Keyword: governance | European social policy | employment statistics | social indicator | EU growth strategy | coordination of EMU policies | open method of coordination | EU employment policy

Summary: The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament commissioned this study to obtain an up-to-date assessment of how employment and social issues are addressed in the European Semester governance mechanisms and of the contribution of the employment and social indicators applied in the macro surveillance exercises since 2013, as well as the role and perceptions of the main stakeholders in this respect.

The study findings show a European Semester currently undergoing important developments under the pressure of changing economic and social conditions, with the increasing visibility of the structural employment and social effects of the crisis.

These developments underline the need for revising the EU governance and coordination system in order to address the social and employment imbalances besides the macroeconomic ones to support greater and more inclusive growth prospects in the long run and to develop a more comprehensive assessment of social and employment conditions at the country level. The ultimate goals of the EU2020 strategy should be taken as the basis of the Semester coordination efforts.

Effective access to justice

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-11-2017

External author: Ms Nathy Rass-Masson, Ms Virginie Rouas (Milieu)


Keyword: access to the courts | EP Committee | petition | EU Member State | legal expenses | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs upon request by PETI Committee, aims to identify and understand the issues affecting effective access to justice raised by the EU citizens and residents in some Member States with the main aim to frame the analysis and obtain a fair representation of recurring issues pertaining to access to justice across the EU. It seeks to understand why citizens have turned to the EU institutions to seek access to justice, and looks at a large range of factors, including legal and procedural issues as well as practical, social, historical and political factors that underpin the issues raised in these petitions.

More broadly, the study intends to assess the relevance of the petitions system to address access to justice issues experienced by citizens at national level.

EYE 2016 – Youth unemployment: Down to zero?

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 28-04-2016

Author: Marie LECERF

Policy area: Employment

Keyword: EURES | youth unemployment | integration into employment | labour mobility | job creation | fight against unemployment | educational system | school-working life relations | vocational guidance | EU employment policy | EU statistics

Summary: Young people in Europe are eager to move on, to work and to participate, but more than 4 million of them are in a precarious position. How can we reduce youth unemployment to close to zero within 10 years? Has Europe taken decisive action for a real crackdown? This note has been prepared for the European Youth Event, taking place in Strasbourg in May 2016. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.
Research for TRAN Committee - Road Transport Hauliers in the EU: Social and Working Conditions
(Update of the 2013 study)

Publication type Study
Date 09-10-2017
External author Enrico PASTORI, Marco BRAMBILLA
Policy area Transport
Keyword carriage of goods | approximation of laws | road cabotage | working conditions | rest period | work contract | driving period | drivers
Summary The study updates the 2013 analysis of the social legislation and working conditions of professional drivers engaged in the road freight transport sector. It concentrates on the fundamental social issues that arise in this transport segment, including driving times and rest periods as well as practical aspects that impact directly on the quality of life of drivers, e.g. employment schemes and income levels. After an overall analysis of the legal framework, which includes the EU legislation relevant for the social dimension of road freight transport, the findings of a renewed stakeholder and driver consultation are reported.

Gender Equality in the Media Sector

Publication type Study
Date 17-01-2018
External author Katie McCracken, Director, Opcit Research
Dr. Ana FitzSimons, Senior Researcher, Opcit Research
Dr. Sarah Priest, Senior Researcher, Opcit Research
Sylvia Girstmair Researcher, Opcit Research
Professor Brenda Murphy, Professor of Gender Studies, University of Malta
Policy area Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Keyword EU Member State | communications profession | press | gender mainstreaming | gender equality | Malta
Summary This study examines key elements of the European policy agenda pertaining to gender equality in the media sector. It also reviews existing research on women’s representation within media content and the media workforce. The study provides analysis of actions to promote gender equality in the media sector at both the EU and Member State levels. Finally, it presents case studies of gender equality in the media in four Member States: Austria, Malta, Sweden, and the UK.

Study in Focus - Eu and ILO: Shaping the Future of Work

Publication type Briefing
Date 15-08-2019
External author F. PASTORE, S. GAUSAS, I. STYCZYNSKA et al.
Policy area Social Policy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment
Summary This briefing presents the key findings of the corresponding study (PE 638.407).

Thinking about the future of Europe: 'Ideas Papers' for the European Parliament Administration's Innovation Day

Publication type Study
Date 08-02-2019
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Summary This compendium contains a set of 12 'Ideas Papers' prepared by policy analysts in the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) to stimulate discussion at the various sessions of the January 2019 Innovation Day, with a view to the European Parliament administration’s preparations for the coming 2019-2024 parliamentary term.
Creative Europe programme 2021-2027
Publication type Briefing
Date 26-11-2019
Author Magdalena PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS
Policy area Culture | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword audiovisual production | pluralism in the media | artistic creation | audiovisual industry | culture industry | cultural pluralism | arts | EU programme | cultural cooperation | cultural promotion | proposal (EU) | language policy
Summary Having considered the possibility of merging the Creative Europe programme with other programmes supporting European values, rights and justice, the European Commission has decided to continue the Creative Europe programme as a stand-alone programme, increasing its budget by 17%. The only programme focusing exclusively on cultural and creative activities and enterprises, it falls under the 'Cohesion and values' heading of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. The existing programme focuses on the economic dimension of the cultural sector and its contribution to job creation and economic growth. Some stakeholders have voiced concern at taking such a strongly economic approach to culture. Under proposed programme, the economic dimension is one axis alongside the social dimension, and culture’s contribution to international relations. The proposed framework for cultural policy therefore highlights not only the economic dimension of the cultural and creative sectors, but also the role of culture in social cohesion and its relation to creative and artistic freedom and diversity, and freedom and plurality of media. Both Parliament and Council have agreed positions on the proposal, and trilogue negotiations started in autumn 2019 with a view to finding agreement before Council’s first reading. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Differences in Men's and Women's Work, Care and Leisure Time
Publication type Study
Date 15-03-2016
External author Konstantina DAVAKI (Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, the UK)
Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword poverty | work-life balance | EU growth strategy | position of women | labour flexibility | parental leave | female work | gender equality | working time | European social policy | female worker | care for the elderly | child care | EU employment policy
Summary The economic crisis has profoundly affected the labour market and private life of men and women. This study examines the interrelation of policies with the ways women and men allocate time to paid work, care and leisure and the gendered outcomes produced in different socio-economic and cultural settings. It shows that policies are powerful tools which contribute to a better work-life balance and transform gender roles in accordance to the targets of EU2020 strategy and EU28 commitment to gender equality.

Updating of the Study on Gender Mainstreaming in Committees and Delegations of the European Parliament
Publication type Study
Date 15-11-2018
External author Manuela Samek Lodovici, Daniela Loi, Flavia Pesce, Cristina Vasilescu , IRS-Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale, Italy
Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Keyword sexual harassment | third country | statistics | EP Committee | gender mainstreaming | report | EP opinion | policymaking | proposal (EU)
Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, provides an update of a previous study published in 2014. It is meant to assess to what extent the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM) of the European Parliament contributed to the effective implementation of gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament activities between July 2017 and July 2018.

Source : © European Union, 2020 - EP
EU Social and Labour Rights and EU Internal Market Law

Publication type: Study
Date: 24-09-2015

External author: Dagmar SCHIEK (Queen’s University Belfast, the UK); Liz Oliver, Christopher Forde and Gabriella Alberti (University of Leeds, the UK); Michael Doherty (University of Maynooth, Ireland); Joanna Unterschütz (University of Business Administration, Gdynia, Poland); Consuelo Chacartegui Jávega and Julia Lopez Lopez (University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain); Kerstin Ahlberg and Niklas Bruun (University of Stockholm, Sweden)


Keyword: single market | collective bargaining | freedom to provide services | labour law | right of establishment | competition law | working conditions | case law (EU) | free movement of workers | Ireland | social security | Spain | Poland | equal treatment | labour mobility | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | Sweden | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary: EU Social and Labour Rights have developed incrementally, originally through a set of legislative initiatives creating selective employment rights, followed by a non-binding Charter of Social Rights. Only in 2009, social and labour rights became legally binding through the Charter of Fundamental Rights for the European Union (CFREU). By contrast, the EU Internal Market - an area without frontiers where goods, persons, services and capital can circulate freely – has been enshrined in legally enforceable Treaty provisions from 1958. These comprise the economic freedoms guaranteeing said free circulation and a system ensuring that competition is not distorted within the Internal Market (Protocol 27 to the Treaty of Lisbon). Tensions between Internal Market law and social and labour rights have been observed in analyses of EU case law and legislation. This report, provided by Policy Department A to the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, explores responses by socio-economic and political actors at national and EU levels to such tensions. On the basis of the current Treaties and the CFREU, the constitutionally conditioned Internal Market emerges as a way to overcome the perception that social and labour rights limit Internal Market law. On this basis, alternative responses to perceived tensions are proposed, focused on posting of workers, furthering fair employment conditions through public procurement and enabling effective collective bargaining and industrial action in the Internal Market.

Study EN
Executive summary DE, FR

Youth unemployment: EU policies to tackle unemployment

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 11-05-2012

Author: Laurence AMAND-EECKHOUT

Policy area: Employment | Education

Keyword: youth unemployment | employment statistics | economic recovery | dropout | vocational education | job creation | EU growth strategy | investment promotion | continuing education | EU employment policy

Summary: More than 5.5 million young people (under 25 year old) are currently unemployed in the EU. The unprecedented high level of youth unemployment (EU average 22.6%) exacerbated with widespread precarious forms of work has put the issue of youth employment on the top of EU priorities.

Briefing EN

Horizon 2020 EU framework programme for research and innovation

Publication type: Study
Date: 24-02-2017

Author: Anna ZYGIEREWICZ


Keyword: cross-border cooperation | private sector | EU Member State | Framework Programme for Research and Development | EU research policy | research and development | innovation | report | gender equality

Summary: Horizon 2020, the EU framework programme for research and innovation (2014-2020) is aimed at building a society and an economy based on knowledge and innovation across the Union, while contributing to sustainable development. The programme supports the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and other Union policies, as well as the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area (ERA). The introduction to this European implementation assessment (EIA) presents basic information on the implementation of Horizon 2020, including policy on gender equality and international cooperation. In addition, the annexes contain the input to the EIA received from external experts, who prepared analyses of the implementation of the three Horizon 2020 priorities: excellent science, industrial leadership, and societal challenges. The implementation of each priority was analysed from two perspectives: a) a research and industry perspective prepared by experts from the Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services (CSES) and the Centre for Industrial Studies (ČSIL); b) economic and financial perspective prepared by experts from the Europe Economics consortium.

Study EN
Algeria and the EU: Challenges before the elections

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 05-12-2018
Author: Philippe PERCHOC

Algeria will shortly be holding elections in April 2019 that will be crucial for its future. The country did, it is true, introduce constitutional reforms in response to the Arab Spring in the region, but whether or not President Bouteflika will have a fifth term in office is still the chief cause of the uncertainty hanging over the country. Although elderly now and in frail health, the President is still the glue binding Algeria’s political system together after its terrible civil war in the 1990s. In this context, the Algerian equation remains a complex one with three unknown factors (youth, climate and migration) that may shape short and medium-term prospects. Algeria has a high number of young people and constant growth is needed for them to find jobs on the labour market. Young people are still not particularly engaged in Algeria’s political system and little is known about their preferences. Climate warming is a second unknown: it will have major consequences for the area and will probably push both Algeria’s population and people in the wider Sahelian region towards coastal towns, making investment in sustainable urban planning and suitable public services essential. Lastly, demographic dynamics, both as regards the country’s own population and how migration affects it, constitute an important challenge for the future. These concerns place Algeria firmly in its regional context where it plays a central role in the conflicts in the western Sahara, in relation to Libya, and in the Sahel. Algeria is also a vital partner in the fight against international terrorism. The country’s economic situation still needs to be watched: Algeria’s economy is coming under pressure from fluctuating energy prices. The Algerian authorities agree that reforms are needed but they are difficult to bring in when the State is facing a fall in revenue. The European Union is Algeria’s main trade partner and the Association Agreement provides a framework for further developing trade relations. The two partners recently opened discussions on Algeria’s tariff barriers as they do not seem to be heading in the right direction.

Study EN

Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors - A Rolling Check-List of recent findings

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-03-2018
Author: Gabriella ZANA-SZABO | RONNIE JOHANNES KORVER

This rolling check-list presents an overview of the Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors (ECA), concentrating on those relevant for the 2016 discharge procedure. It strives to link the research topics of the Special Reports to relevant debates and positions within the European Parliament, including the working documents of the Committee on Budgetary Control, the work of the specialised parliamentary committees, forthcoming plenary resolutions and individual questions by Members. This check-list has been prepared by the Ex-Post Evaluation Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the EP’s in-house research service and think-tank, as part of the EP’s ombudsman function, and in cooperation with the European Parliament’s permanent committees and the parliamentary committees in charge of the follow-up of the EU’s budget. The check-list presents an overview of the special reports of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) across all policy areas, covering the entire legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that the Parliament has a particular interest in the discharge of the ECA’s annual report on the implementation of EU law, policies and programmes. The European Parliament is strongly committed to Better Law-Making, and particularly to the effective use of ex-ante impact assessment and ex-post evaluation throughout the entire legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that the Parliament has a particular interest in following the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU law, and, more generally, monitoring the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of policy and programmes in practice.

Study EN

Youth Employment Initiative in Slovenia

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2017

This paper presents recent developments in (youth) employment and the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in Slovenia, including a brief overview of trends, policy developments and measures taken or planned in this field. Specific attention is given to the measure First Challenge 2015, which is the only measure supported through the YEI in Slovenia. The paper has been prepared upon request of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament in view of its fact-finding delegation to Slovenia and Croatia in September 2017.

Study EN

Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - November 2019

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 26-11-2019
Policy area: Budget | Intellectual Property Law | International Trade | Agriculture and Rural Development | Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary: The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events.

At a Glance EN

Research for CULT Committee - ESIF and culture, education, youth & sport – the use of European Structural and Investment Funds in policy areas of the Committee on Culture & Education

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-05-2018
External author: The Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services LLP (CSES): Mike Coyne, Malin Carlberg, Caroline Chandler, Eugenie Loh-DeMonz
Policy area: Culture | Forward Planning | Education
Keyword: European Structural and Investment Funds | EU policy | vocational training | education | European Social Fund | youth policy | European Regional Development Fund | sport | culture | EU statistics

Summary: The study examines the nature and extent of ESIF funding for education and training, culture, sport and youth, including the legal base for such support. Much activity in these areas is hidden in official data, under other headings, but all of the areas are already making a significant contribution to economic and social development. The study concludes with a recommendation that there be greater recognition in the future of the human contribution of these areas to cohesion policy.

Study EN

Executive summary: ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL, PT

A decade on from the financial crisis: Key data

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 17-10-2019
Author: Eulalia CLAROS GIMENO | Marcin SZCZEPANSKI
Policy area: Financial and Banking Issues

Summary: The financial crisis began with the collapse of Lehman Brothers, starting a worldwide chain reaction. The EU economy contracted for five consecutive quarters, with growth returning only in the second half of 2009. Stimulatory and fiscal actions by national governments and the EU, and the Eurosystem’s loose monetary policy, helped achieve recovery. It was short-lived, however, as in 2010 a sovereign debt crisis resulted from a loss of financial market confidence, with soaring public debt. Yields on government bonds, particularly in the periphery countries, rose dramatically. Ad hoc rescue devices, such as the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, brought the situation under control, later supported by the pledge of European Central Bank President Mario Draghi to do ‘whatever it takes’ to save the euro.

The acute phase of the crisis ended in 2014, followed by a period of extremely low inflation and weak growth. To boost inflation, facilitate bank lending and stimulate the economy, the Eurosystem relied increasingly on quantitative easing. Although 2017 was the EU’s best year since the crisis, with the EU economy returning to pre-crisis levels, recent data suggest that the momentum is weakening, both in and outside the EU.

Briefing EN

A decade on from the crisis: Main responses and remaining challenges

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 17-10-2019
Author: Marcin SZCZEPANSKI
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary: It has been a decade since the financial crisis erupted and changed the world in 2008. Few at the time guessed what would be its magnitude and long-term consequences. The interconnectedness of the economy and the financial sector facilitated the spread of the crisis from the United States to Europe. First, the EU faced the Great Recession in the 2008-2009 period and then, after a short recovery, several Member States succumbed to the sovereign debt crisis. The combined crises had catastrophic consequences for economic growth, investment, employment and the fiscal position of many Member States. The EU engaged in short-term "fire-fighting" measures such as bailouts to save banks and help distressed sovereigns, while at the same time reforming the inadequate framework. While signs of moderate recovery showed in 2014, the risk of falling into deflation or secular stagnation remained high, and it was only in 2017 that the EU economy returned to a state similar to that of before the crisis. The signs in 2019 are not so promising however. Many efforts have been made to improve resilience in the EU and the euro area. These have included improving the stability of the financial sector, strengthening economic governance, creating a safety net for sovereigns in distress and carrying out structural reforms, particularly in the countries most affected. In addition, the European Central Bank (ECB) has taken unconventional policy measures. Nonetheless many argue that the pace of the reforms has slowed down considerably since 2013 when the economic situation began to improve. The legacy of the crisis is still present and many challenges persist. These include the absence of a clear and agreed vision for the future of economic and monetary union (EMU), perennial macroeconomic imbalances and high public deficits in a number of Member States, and the ongoing risk of a doom loop between sovereigns and the banking sector. Post crisis vulnerabilities also include rising inequalities, youth unemployment and high in-work poverty risk levels. See also our infographic, A decade on from the financial crisis: Key data, PE 640.145.

Briefing EN

Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
Risk of Precariousness: Results from European Working Conditions Survey 2010 and 2015

In-Depth Analysis

Publication type: Study
Date: 08-05-2013

External author: Eichhorst, Werner (IZA, coordinator), Braga, Michela (Fondazione DeBenedetti), Famira-Mühlberger, Ulrike (WIFO), Gerard, Maarten (IDEA Consult), Horvath, Thomas (WIFO), Kahanec, Martin (CELSI), Kahanecová, Marta (CELSI), Kendzia, Michael (IZA), Martíková, Monika (CELSI), Monti, Paola (Fondazione DeBenedetti), Pedersen, Jakob Louis (NIRAS), Stanley, Julian (University of Warwick), Vandeweghe, Barbara (IDEA Consult), Wehner, Caroline (IZA) and White, Caroline (University of Warwick)


Keyword: new type of employment | labour law | labour relations | self-employed person | labour flexibility | working conditions | non-standard employment | self-employment | social security | subcontracting | socioeconomic conditions

Summary: The note analyses patterns of job quality across types of employment as regards the dimensions of working conditions reported in the European Working Conditions Surveys from 2010 and 2015. Job quality in full-time employment did not change significantly between 2010 and 2015 - this is the main result referring to reported objective, rather objective and subjective perceptions of working conditions in this dataset. Full-time and part-time open-ended contracts as well as self-employment with employees continue to be associated with the lowest risk of precariousness whereas marginal-part-time work, fixed-term contracts and freelance work exhibit by a medium level of precariousness risks. The risk of precariousness is highest and tends to increase for temporary agency workers. The note has been prepared by Policy Department A at request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee.

In-Depth Analysis

Social Protection Rights of Economically Dependent Self-Employed Workers

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-06-2019

External author: Marie LECERF

Policy area: Employment

Keyword: apprenticeship | European Globalisation Adjustment Fund | unemployment | EU Member State | European Social Fund | EU initiative | social security legislation | European Investment Fund | young person | EU strategy | labour mobility | fight against unemployment | EU statistics

Summary: By promoting a high level of employment, the European Union (EU) has been involved in the fight against unemployment since as long ago as the early 1950s. The issue was brought to the top of the European agenda with the onset of the 2008 economic and financial crisis, and the consequent rise in unemployment rates in all European Union (EU) Member States. In its Europe 2020 strategy, the European Commission set a target to get 75 % of 20 to 64 year-olds into employment by 2020. EU labour market conditions have significantly improved in recent years, and most labour market indicators have strengthened steadily. Since mid-2013, the unemployment rate has continued to decline, and the EU is back to its pre-crisis level (6.5 % in February 2019). Despite the recovery in economic growth and its positive impact on the labour market, the EU still has to face unemployment challenges, particularly concerning differences between Member States, youth unemployment and long-term unemployment. Since 2014, efforts have been made in a number of areas, including to help young people enter the labour market, to combat long-term unemployment, upgrade skills, and facilitate workers' mobility in the European Union. The improvement in labour market indicators has been reflected in citizens' improved evaluation of the EU's involvement in the fight against unemployment, but there is still a very high demand for even more EU intervention in this policy area (76 % of EU citizens). In the future, new or updated legislation relating to employment could modernise work to help in adjustment to a digital world, support sustainable transitions from unemployment into employment and between jobs, increase labour mobility and create closer coordination between economic and social policies. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

EU policies – Delivering for citizens: The fight against unemployment

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 28-06-2019

Author: Marie LECERF

Policy area: Employment

Keyword: temporary employment | self-employed person | vocational training | part-time employment | EU Member State | full-time employment | comparative study | working conditions | job security | occupational health | EU statistics | mental stress

Summary: By promoting a high level of employment, the European Union (EU) has been involved in the fight against unemployment since as long ago as the early 1950s. The issue was brought to the top of the European agenda with the onset of the 2008 economic and financial crisis, and the consequent rise in unemployment rates in all European Union (EU) Member States. In its Europe 2020 strategy, the European Commission set a target to get 75 % of 20 to 64 year-olds into employment by 2020. EU labour market conditions have significantly improved in recent years, and most labour market indicators have strengthened steadily. Since mid-2013, the unemployment rate has continued to decline, and the EU is back to its pre-crisis level (6.5 % in February 2019). Despite the recovery in economic growth and its positive impact on the labour market, the EU still has to face unemployment challenges, particularly concerning differences between Member States, youth unemployment and long-term unemployment. Since 2014, efforts have been made in a number of areas, including to help young people enter the labour market, to combat long-term unemployment, upgrade skills, and facilitate workers' mobility in the European Union. The improvement in labour market indicators has been reflected in citizens' improved evaluation of the EU's involvement in the fight against unemployment, but there is still a very high demand for even more EU intervention in this policy area (76 % of EU citizens). In the future, new or updated legislation relating to employment could modernise work to help in adjustment to a digital world, support sustainable transitions from unemployment into employment and between jobs, increase labour mobility and create closer coordination between economic and social policies. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.
**Demographic outlook for the European Union 2019**

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 03-06-2019  
**Author** David EATOCK  
**Policy area** Social Policy  
**Keyword** pension scheme | depopulation | population ageing | EU Member State | immigration | life expectancy | rural migration | Eurostat | fertility | EU statistics | demographic analysis  
**Summary** This paper is the second in a series that EPRS is producing on the demographic outlook for the European Union (EU). Demography matters. The economy, labour market, healthcare, pensions, the environment, intergenerational fairness and election results – they are all driven by demography. The EU has seen its population grow substantially – by around a quarter since 1960 – and currently stands at over 500 million people. However, it is now beginning to stagnate, before its expected decline from around the middle of the century. With the world population having risen still more substantially and growth continuing, the EU represents a shrinking proportion of this population. The EU population is also ageing dramatically; as life expectancy increases and fertility rates fall below their levels in the past, this has serious implications across a range of areas including the economy, healthcare and pensions. Free movement within the EU and migration from third countries also play an important role in shaping demography in individual Member States and regions. The ‘in-focus’ section of this year’s edition looks at pensions. It highlights that, whilst national reforms have largely successfully addressed issues around the sustainability of pension systems, concerns about the adequacy of pensions, particularly in the future, still remain.

In-Depth Analysis **DE, EN, FR**

**The Cost of Non-Europe in Asylum Policy**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 18-10-2018  
**External author** Navarra, Cecilia; Ballegooij, Wouter van;  
**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice  
**Keyword** political asylum | third country | statistics | EU Member State | sustainable development | migrant | distribution of EU funding | refugee | external border of the EU | European Asylum Support Office | Frontex  
**Summary** Current structural weaknesses and shortcomings in the design and implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) have a cost of EUR 50.5 billion per year, including costs due to irregular migration, lack of accountability in external action, inefficiencies in asylum procedures, poor living conditions and health, and dimmer employment prospects leading to lower generation of tax revenue. Seven policy options for the EU to tackle the identified gaps and barriers would bring about many benefits including better compliance with international and EU norms and values, lower levels of irregular migration to the EU and costs of border security and surveillance, increased effectiveness and efficiency of the asylum process, faster socio-economic integration of asylum-seekers, increased employment and tax revenues and reinforced protection of human rights in countries of return. Once, considered the costs, the net benefits of these policy options would be at least EUR 23.5 billion per year.

Study **EN**

**Main Causes of Female Poverty - Compilation**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 24-03-2015  
**External author** Wim Van Lancker, Vincent Corluy, Jeroen Horemans, Sarah Marchal and Julie Vinck (Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium) ; Diane Perrons (Gender Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science, Tthe UK) ; Maria Stratigaki (Department of Social Policy, Panteion University, Greece)  
**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights  
**Keyword** poverty | pauperisation | EU Member State | European Social Fund | position of women | marginalisation | gender equality | social impact | impact study | female migrant | female worker | one-parent family | economic recession | working poor  
**Summary** Upon request by the FEMM Committee, these in-depth analyses highlight different aspects of female poverty. They complement two other Workshop contributions from a research project of the European Commission and from UNICEF. Wim van Lancker and his team examine the extent of women’s poverty in the EU and the impact of social exclusion through poverty on living and working conditions of women and their children. He concludes with a discussion of policy measures that have been taken in EU Member States for enabling paid employment and ensuring adequate income protection.

Diane Perrons explores the impact of the crisis on female poverty. Multiple differences exist among European Union Member States but overall poverty has increased and women are still more likely than men to live in poverty, though until 2012 the increase for men was greater than that for women. Economic performance and economic policies seem to be associated with poverty. The paper recommends that macroeconomic policy be mainstreamed to identify gender specific outcomes.

Maria Stratigaki focuses on European policies and activities and the role of the European Social Fund in the fight against female poverty. She emphasises the need for developing a holistic methodological approach to face gendered poverty, going beyond tackling poverty exclusively via active labour market policies.

Study **EN**
EU contribution to the fight against child poverty

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 11-11-2019
Author: Marie LECERF

Policy area: Social Policy

Summary: The number of children at risk of poverty – almost one in four – remains high in the European Union. As 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the opportunity arises to take stock of what the European Union is doing to fight child poverty. Even though legal competence for child policy remains primarily with the Member States, the fight against child poverty is a major priority of the European Union (EU). The Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Pillar of Social Rights reflect the EU's increasing willingness to tackle child poverty, while the use of European funds is key to success. The European Parliament has always been at the forefront of this fight, most recently with the promotion of a Child Guarantee Scheme.

At a Glance EN

The Impact of New Forms of Labour on Industrial Relations and the Evolution of Labour Law in the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-06-2008

External author: Ricardo Rodríguez Contreras (Director of the study) (Consortium LABOUR ASOCIADOS SLL, Madrid, Spain)
Claude Emmanuel Triomphe (Coordinator) (Association pour le Développement de l'Université Européenne du Travail, Paris, France)
Tamás Gyulavári, Sylvaine Laulom, Miguel Rodríguez-Piñero, Christophe Teissier, Claude-Emmanuel Triomphe, Christophe Vigneur and Ricardo and Rodriguez Contreras
John Warmerdam (The Netherlands), Adam Turowiec (Poland) and Miguel Rodríguez-Piñero Royo (Spain) (case studies)
Helmut Hägele and Michael Fertig (ISG) (Labour Market and Employment Analysis)

Policy area: Social Policy | Employment | Industry
Keyword: self-regulation | labour market | labour law | competence of the Member States | social partners | working conditions | social dialogue | non-standard employment | self-employment

Summary: Globalisation, rapid technological change and increased competition through globalisation have fundamentally changed European labour markets and brought about more dynamic labour markets that have had an impact on the contractual arrangement of labour law and the role of social partners. The aim of the study was to provide an overview of the most characteristic and common types of non-standard contracts in the 27 EU Member States based on existing research, statistics and a thorough labour market analysis. The impact of rapidly changing developments in the labour market and work organisation on labour law and collective agreements has been addressed as well as the concept of ‘Flexicurity’ by analysing the impact of non-standard contracts on the growing gap between the so-called “outsiders” and “insiders” of the labour market. Atypical employment relations were demonstrated by three national case studies focusing on flexibility and security in The Netherlands, self-employment in Poland and fixed-term work in Spain.

Study EN

Policy Department Services (EMPL in Focus)

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 14-06-2019
Author: AOIFE KENNEDY

Policy area: Social Policy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment

Summary: Policy Department A provides high-quality expertise, up-to-date analysis and independent research to the committees it supports: ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE and IMCO. This brochure focuses on the Policy Department services for the EMPL Committee.

Briefing: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

The Scrutiny of the European Defence Fund by the European Parliament and national parliaments

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-04-2019

External author: Daniel FIOTT, Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: parliamentary scrutiny | national parliament | fund (EU) | European Parliament | common security and defence policy

Summary: Since 2016, the European Union has developed a number of new initiatives on security and defence. In particular, the introduction of Permanent Structured Cooperation and the European Defence Fund have been designed to allow the EU to become a more autonomous actor with regard to crisis management, capacity building and protecting Europe and its citizens. Yet the development of these new initiatives raises questions about their overall coherence and the role of parliamentary scrutiny. It is necessary to analyse the role of the European Parliament and national parliaments in relation to the scrutiny of the European Defence Fund. There is a need for recommendations on how parliamentary scrutiny can be enhanced at the EU level in the area of security and defence.

Study EN
Transitional allowances for former EU office holders - too few conditions?

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-12-2017
External author: Dr. Christoph Demmke, Roland Blomeyer, Dr. Mike Beke
Policy area: Budget | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Keyword: severance pay | staff regulations (EU) | conflict of interest | public office | political figure | EU institution
Summary: This study focuses on the transitional allowances for former office holders, covering the European Parliament, European Commission, President of the European Council and Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, European Investment Bank, European Central Bank, the Ombudsman and the European Data Protection Supervisor. The arrangements for these institutions are contrasted with approaches in European Union Member States, third countries and international organisations. Room for improvement is identified regarding the effectiveness of transitional allowances, e.g. in terms of preventing conflicts of interest.

Differential Treatment of Workers under 25 with a View to their Access to the Labour Market

Publication type: Study
Date: 05-02-2015
External author: Jacqueline Mallender, Laura Todaro, Daniel Griffiths and Mirja Gutheil (Matrix) ; Kari P Hadjivassiliou (IES)
Keyword: employment aid | labour market | youth unemployment | France | United Kingdom | vocational training | Austria | Finland | young worker | working conditions | Italy | Poland | age discrimination | long-term unemployment | youth employment | EU employment policy
Summary: This Policy Department A study aims at providing the EMPL Committee with an up-to-date, comprehensive picture of the latest developments in policy measures regarding differential treatment of workers under 25 in the EU with a view to their access to the labour market. The evidence collected shows that in the last 15 years the youth unemployment rate has been constantly higher than the adult rate in the EU. Active labour market policies and employer incentives can be combined effectively to increase the employment rate of young people. When measures discriminate, this tends to be the result of the interplay between the measure and the institutional and socioeconomic context. While the responsibility for employment policies resides at national level, the EU can enhance its coordinating and overseeing role to support young people in becoming financially independent and socially included. The EU should promote policy innovation and better define anti-discrimination legislation with respect to age.

COLLECTIVE REDRESS IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Publication type: Study
Date: 03-10-2018
External author: Rafael AMARO, Associate Professor at the University Paris-Descartes, France
Maria José AZAR-BAUD, Associate Professor at Paris-Sud University, France
Sabine CORNELOUP, Professor at the University Paris II Panthéon-Assas, France
Bénédicte FAUVARQUE-COSSON, Professor at the University Paris II Panthéon-Assas, France
Fabienne JAULT-SESEKE, Professor at the University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France
Policy area: Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters
Keyword: EU Member State | trade dispute | right of action | public consultation | legal action | harmonisation of standards | settlement of disputes | collective interest | alternative dispute resolution
Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Legal Affairs, aims to assess the current state of play of collective redress at national and European levels, evaluate the opportunity of a European intervention in the matter and provide the European Parliament with concrete recommendations. Both the assessment and the recommendations have been drafted keeping in mind the essential issue raised by collective redress: access to justice. This principle, which is essential in a Union enforcing the rule of law, is currently challenged by the existing divergences. As such the creation of harmonised collective redress mechanism is becoming an increasingly pressing matter.
The effects of human rights related clauses in the EU-Mexico Global Agreement and the EU-Chile Association Agreement

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-02-2017
Author: Isabelle IOANNIDES

Keyword: impact study | Mexico | free-trade agreement | association agreement (EU) | Chile | civil society | extra-EU trade | human rights

Summary: The democracy clause in the EU-Mexico Global Agreement and by extension the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement calls for respect for fundamental human rights. If these are breached, a sanctioning clause can be invoked. The widely reported violations of human rights in Mexico are tackled through political dialogue. The agreement includes cooperation articles on social policy, the results of which are non-binding. Against this background, it is difficult to make a clear link between the potential effects of human rights related clauses in the Global Agreement on the human rights situation in Mexico. The EU-Chile Association Agreement (AA) also includes a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, which is subject to the democracy clause. More developed than that in the Global Agreement, this clause calls for respect for fundamental human rights; sustainable economic and social development; and commits parties to good governance. The AA also includes a suspension clause in case of breach of the democracy clause, and cooperation provisions, the results of which are non-binding. While these are more detailed than the ones in the Global Agreement, the impact of the EU-Chile AA on the human rights situation in Chile has been limited in its extent and to specific aspects of the social policy agenda. In both cases, the monitoring mechanisms of the EU agreements have generally been implemented properly – even if civil society participation in Chile was institutionalised late. These mechanisms have played an important role in nurturing cooperation, but the incentives created have not translated into sufficient pressure for the implementation of human rights related reforms. Rather than the EU FTAs per se impacting on ensuring the respect of human rights in Mexico and Chile, it is the cumulative effect of the liberalisation of trade in the two countries, the EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership, the role of all global players, and cooperation with international donors that have encouraged reform. Ultimately, whether or not reforms in favour of respect of human rights have been adopted and implemented was the result of domestic politics in Mexico and Chile.

Study: ES, EN

Brexit and Migration

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-10-2018
External author: Carolus Grütters, Elspeth Guild, Paul Minderhoud, Ricky van Oers, Tineke Strik
Policy area: Security and Defence | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Human Rights
Keyword: residence | third country | migration policy | United Kingdom | international agreement | social security legislation | free movement of workers | free movement of persons | visa policy | internal border of the EU | social-security benefit | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | self-employed person | family migration | withdrawal from the EU

Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs, at the request of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE Committee), focuses on the future relationship between the UK and EU following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU in the field of migration (excluding asylum), including future movement of EU citizens and UK nationals between the EU and UK. Moreover, it investigates the role of the Court of Justice of the EU.

Study: EN
Annex I: EN

Economic impacts of artificial intelligence (AI)

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 01-07-2019
Author: Marcin SZCZEPANSKI
Policy area: Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary: Artificial intelligence plays an increasingly important role in our lives and economy and is already having an impact on our world in many different ways. Worldwide competition to reap its benefits is fierce, and global leaders – the US and Asia – have emerged on the scene. AI is seen by many as an engine of productivity and economic growth. It can increase the efficiency with which things are done and vastly improve the decision-making process by analysing large amounts of data. It can also spawn the creation of new products and services, markets and industries, thereby boosting consumer demand and generating new revenue streams. However, AI may also have a highly disruptive effect on the economy and society. Some warn that it could lead to the creation of super firms – hubs of wealth and knowledge – that could have detrimental effects on the wider economy. It may also widen the gap between developed and developing countries, and boost the need for workers with certain skills while rendering others redundant; this latter trend could have far-reaching consequences for the labour market. Experts also warn of its potential to increase inequality, push down wages and shrink the tax base. While these concerns remain valid, there is no consensus on whether and to what extent the related risks will materialise. They are not a given, and carefully designed policy would be able to foster the development of AI while keeping the negative effects in check. The EU has a potential to improve its standing in global competition and direct AI onto a path that benefits its economy and citizens. In order to achieve this, it first needs to agree a common strategy that would utilise its strengths and enable the pooling of Member States’ resources in the most effective way.

Briefing: EN
The Employment and Social situation in the US Labour Market

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-04-2017
Author: Marion SCHMID-DRÜNER
External author: Chris FORDE
Policy area: Budget | Forward Planning | Social Policy | Employment
Keyword: poverty | labour market | United States | family benefit | economic growth | health care system | economic and social cohesion | vocational training | social statistics | social indicator | unemployment | self-employment
Summary: This study provides an overview of the social and employment situation in the US. The paper has been put together to inform the Delegation of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee in view of their visit to Washington, USA in April 2017. The paper looks at the labour market situation in the USA over the last decade, social protection in the USA, and recent developments in the labor market and social protection.

Risk of precariousness in the public sector

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-02-2017
Author: Susanne KRAATZ
External author: Werner Eichhorst, Verena Tobsch
Policy area: Forward Planning | Social Policy | Employment
Keyword: professional career | part-time employment | EU Member State | labour flexibility | working conditions | public sector | job security | EU statistics
Summary: This note analyses the size of the public sector, employment patterns and job quality. It takes into account dimensions of working conditions reported in the European Working Conditions Surveys from 2010 and 2015. Analysis shows considerable variety in the size of the public sector across Europe. The structure of contract forms in the public sector differs marginally from the private sector. However, there is evidence that working conditions are generally better.

Poverty, gender and life cycle: Portraits of poverty in the European Union

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 30-11-2017
Author: Marie LECERF
Policy area: Social Policy
Keyword: poverty | social analysis | youth unemployment | EU Member State | elderly person | child protection | position of women | marginalisation | young person | social situation | social security | large family | European social policy | female worker | one-parent family
Summary: Nearly a quarter of the population in the European Union (23.8%) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2015. Living conditions, the degree of insecurity and the routes into and out of poverty vary according to age and gender, as well as varying over the course of a lifetime. Children are the most affected population in Europe today, while young people aged between 18 and 24 now represent 10% of those at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU. There is little difference between the sexes at this age, but it is a key difference among older people. The mid-life period is characterised by substantial variations based on gender, family circumstances and/or professional status. Women, single-parent families, large families or low-income workers are, at this point in their lives, more at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Lastly, older people are now simultaneously the least affected by poverty on average, and also among the most vulnerable, in the case of women.

Turkey: Labour Market Integration and Social Inclusion of Refugees

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2016
External author: Ahmet İçduygu
Policy area: Forward Planning | Employment | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: labour market | labour law | education policy | vocational training | Turkey | integration of migrants | refugee | work permit | foreign national
Summary: This Policy Department A note produced at request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee provides a review of integration policies at the national level. It identifies the challenges and opportunities that both immigrants and local communities face. Various aspects of the Labour Market Integration and Social Inclusion of Refugees are elaborated by the presentation of legal framework and practices from Turkey. The note depicts that Turkey has taken significant steps on the regulations which aim to create an attractive economic environment and to facilitate the application process of work permissions for foreigners as part of integration policies. Furthermore, social integration policies are rather weak and started to develop since the recent immigration flow from Syria. Even though there have been improvements in the integration policies, policy makers should focus on the implementation of more stable and long term policies and practices.
India-administered Kashmir: current situation
Publication type At a Glance
Date 13-09-2019
Author Enrico D'AMBROGIO
Policy area Foreign Affairs
Summary On 5 and 6 August 2019, the Indian Parliament approved the withdrawal of Article 370 of the Constitution, which had guaranteed Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, a high degree of autonomy. It also decided to split Jammu and Kashmir into two territories, both administered directly from Delhi. Meanwhile, the government deployed 46 000 troops, arrested regional political leaders and thousands of activists, suspended internet and communications across the valley, and shut down schools and colleges.

At a Glance EN

Fighting child poverty: the role of EU funding
Publication type Study
Date 16-08-2018
External author Haroldas BROZAITIS, Alina MAKAREVICIENE, Karolina LIPNICKIENE et al., PPMI
Keyword poverty | education policy | EAFRD | child | EU Member State | health care | European Social Fund | European Regional Development Fund | distribution of EU funding | European Semester | EU statistics
Summary The study focuses on the role of EU funding in fighting multidimensional child poverty in EU Member States. It analyses the use of EU funding (ESF, ERDF, EAFRD and FEAD) to address the problems of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion, and in particular materially deprived children. It reveals that although investments addressing child poverty problems are less visible in the strategic and monitoring framework of EU funds, Member States do use the available EU funding.

Study EN

Women's Economic Empowerment at International Level
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 02-03-2017
External author Abigail HUNT and Moizza BINAT SARWAR
Keyword sexual discrimination | work | unpaid leave | UNO | women's rights | female work | gender equality | human rights | International Labour Organisation
Summary Upon request by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) of the European Parliament, this note provides background information for the FEMM Committee mission to the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. The note focuses on the key priority theme of the 61st Session: "Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work".

In-Depth Analysis EN

EU Youth Strategy
Publication type Study
Date 20-02-2018
Author Jan Mikolaj TYMOWSKI
Policy area Culture | Transposition and Implementation of Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment | Education
Keyword EU strategy | vocational training | EU Member State | application of EU law | EU initiative | open method of coordination | youth policy | distribution of EU funding | educational exchange | international voluntary worker | social integration
Summary This study provides an analysis of the EU Youth Strategy, established through the Council Resolution adopted in November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field for the period 2010-2018. The EU Youth Strategy is, first and foremost, an instrument created to facilitate the coordination of Member States' youth policies, with the additional possibility of supporting actions taken at the European level and managed by the European Commission and other bodies and organisations. Using the data available in various documents and sources on the implementation of the Youth Strategy, this study follows the structure of the Council Resolution, covering all fields of actions listed, as well as the types of measures introduced at the national level by Member States (strategy/policy/regulation/guidelines/programme/other) in order to assess the relation between its parts and their take-up to date by the main actors in EU youth policy. It presents a compilation of findings allowing the reader to understand how much has been done so far, and shows substantial evolution in the activity of the European Union and individual Member States, particularly in learning from best practices and undertaking joint projects.

Study EN
The Impact of the Crisis on Fundamental Rights across Member States of the EU - Country Report on Cyprus

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-03-2015
External author: Corina Demetriou
Keyword: Cyprus | right to work | pension scheme | austerity policy | freedom of expression | access to the courts | freedom of assembly | ownership | right to health | impact study | right to housing | right to education | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
Summary: Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this study looks into the impact of the economic crisis and the austerity measures which were introduced as a response thereto, to the enjoyment of a set of selected fundamental rights by individuals in Cyprus. It also contains recommendations on how to make sure that the enjoyment of these rights is ensured in the future.

Transparent and predictable working conditions

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 22-02-2018
Author: ULLA-MARI TUOMINEN
Policy area: Social Policy | Employment
Keyword: impact study | worker information | collective agreement | probationary period | public consultation | working conditions | work contract | dismissal | EU employment policy | proposal (EU)
Summary: This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the above-mentioned proposal, submitted on 21 December 2017 and referred to the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. The proposal updates and replaces Directive 91/533/EEC (the Written Statement Directive, hereafter WSD), which gives employees the right to be notified in writing of the essential aspects of their contract or employment relationship. Taking into account that the labour market has evolved and new forms of work have developed in recent years, the REFIT evaluation of the WSD found that there is a need to modernise and complement the existing obligations to inform workers of their working conditions, and to create minimum standards to ensure that each worker benefits from more clarity regarding his/her working terms, irrespective of the type of employment relationship they have. According to the IA, the initiative would set a framework within which new forms of work could develop, offering fairer protection for workers, a clearer legal framework and a more level playing field for companies in the internal market (IA, pp. 6-7). The proposal, which is part of the 2018 Commission work programme, is a follow-up to the European Pillar of Social Rights. In line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Commission conducted a two-stage consultation with the social partners on the revision of the WSD. There was no agreement among the social partners to enter into direct negotiations on concluding an EU-level agreement. The European Parliament has stressed the need to address the developments of the labour market and protect workers in all forms of employment. It has called for a framework directive on decent working conditions and for a revision of the WSD to take account of new forms of employment.

Research for PECH Committee-Environmental, social and economic sustainability of European eel management

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-02-2019
External author: Thünen Institute of Fisheries Ecology: Reinhold HANEL, Lasse MAROHN, Klaus WYSUJACK, Marko FREESE, Jan-Dag POHLMANN, Nicholas WAIDMANN
Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries: Ralf DÖRING
Profundo: Ward WARMERDAM, Melina van SCHARRENBURG, Jeroen WALSTRA, Mara WERKMAN, Joeri de WILDE, Anya MARCELIS
EPTB Vilaine: Cédric BRIAND
AZTI-Tecnalia: Estibaliz DIAZ, Margarita ANDRÉS,
Fisheries Research Institute of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization: Argyrios Sapoúnidis
Design of cover artwork: Pieter Frank de Jong
Policy area: Fisheries
Summary: The diversity of detrimental factors impacting the European eel and the number of involved stakeholders pose a challenge for an effective stock management. Knowledge on the economic consequences of single management measures is required to better assess their implications for the involved sectors. This study summarizes the current knowledge on threats and provides economic data from hydropower generation, fisheries and aquaculture impacting the European eel in order to evaluate management measures and estimate their repercussions for stakeholders.
Humanitarian visas
Publication type Study
Date 17-10-2018
Author Wouter VAN BALLEGOOIJ
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Human Rights
Keyword visa policy | third country | stateless person | EU Member State | right of asylum | cruel and degrading treatment | foreign national | diplomatic representation
Summary 90 % of those granted international protection reach the European Union through irregular Means. Member States’ failure to offer regular entry pathways to those seeking international protection undermines the achievement of their Treaty and fundamental rights obligations. This situation also has severe individual impacts in terms of mortality and damage to health, negative budgetary and economic impacts EU legislation on humanitarian visas could close the current effectiveness and fundamental rights protection gap in EU asylum policy by offering safe entry pathways, reducing irregular migration and result in increased management, coordination and efficiency in the asylum process, as well as promoting fair cost-sharing.
Study EN

Demography and Family Policies from a Gender Perspective
Publication type Study
Date 07-12-2016
External author Konstantina DAVAKI (London School of Economics and Political Sciences, the UK)
Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Keyword labour market | demography | population ageing | EU Member State | work-life balance | economic recession | family policy | working life | fertility | gender equality | EU statistics
Summary The European Union is in the midst of three crises: the economic, the demographic and the refugee. This study evaluates policies aiming at increasing fertility through work-life balance, reveals their interrelation with family policies and economic priorities and suggests ways of addressing challenges on all three fronts with the view to minimise their gendered outcomes.
Study EN

Publication type Study
Date 16-11-2015
External author Chiara CREPALDI et al.
Policy area Social Policy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment
Keyword poverty | unemployment | subsistence level income | EU Member State | marginalisation | welfare | social integration | social security | European social policy | recommendation (EU) | integration into employment | coordination of EMU policies | EU employment policy
Summary Active inclusion is a comprehensive policy strategy recognising equal importance to each of the three strands: adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services. It also promotes integrated policies to modernising social protection systems. This Policy Department A study analyses policies to enhance the implementation of Active Inclusion policies at European level and in the Member States. It finds that many policy initiatives have been enacted in the last seven years. Nevertheless, the overall picture remains mixed.
Study EN

The Situation of Workers in the Collaborative Economy
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 04-10-2016
Author Marion SCHMID-DRÜNER
Policy area Social Policy | Employment
Keyword electronic commerce | workers’ representation | sexual discrimination | collaborative economy | occupational status | Internet site | racial discrimination | social security legislation | working conditions | data protection | tax on income | professional qualifications
Summary The collaborative economy (or “platform economy”), encompassing work-on-demand via apps like Uber and crowdwork like Amazon Mechanical Turk, has grown exponentially in recent years, thanks to the development of high-speed networks, the exploitation of big data and the availability of mobile devices, which have cut down transaction costs and allow for real-time effective matching of supply and demand. While creating many new opportunities for digital and physical services, which have, thanks to lower costs as compared to established operators, rather expanded the market for services instead of crowding out the incumbents, this new digitally based economy has also raised questions on the situation of workers. As this literature review shows, their legal status (either as employees or self-employed) is often unclear, and negative effects on the labour market can be witnessed (such as missing social protection, low remuneration of work, questionable work-life balance and more). Many of these effects are due to the functioning of the digital economy, which relies on micro-tasks, trust-inducing mechanisms as ratings and - at times opaque - algorithms. The literature review also presents policy solutions as discussed in recent literature.
In-Depth Analysis EN
Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors: A Rolling Check-List of recent findings

Publication type | Study
--- | ---
Date | 10-03-2017
Author | Gabriella ZANA-SZABO | Biliana TZARNORETCHKA
Keyword | European Parliament | report | budgetary discharge | European Court of Auditors
Summary | This rolling check-list presents a comprehensive overview of the European Court of Auditors' (ECA) special reports, concentrating on those relevant for the 2015 EU discharge procedure. The document seeks to link the topics discussed by the special reports to the relevant debates and positions within the European Parliament, including notably the working documents of the Budgetary Control Committee, to the work of the various specialised parliamentary committees, and to individual Members' questions. It is produced by the Policy Cycle Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, as part of its on-going support for parliamentary committees and individual Members, helping them to scrutinise the Executive in its implementation of EU law, policies and programmes. The European Parliament is strongly committed to the concept of better law-making, and particularly to the effective use of ex-ante impact assessment and ex-post evaluation throughout the whole legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that the Parliament has a particular interest in following the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU law, and, more generally, in monitoring the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of policy and programmes in practice.

Study | EN

Occupational Health Concerns: Stress-Related and Psychological Problems Associated with Work

Publication type | Study
--- | ---
Date | 15-05-2013
External author | Monica Guarinoni (Milieu Ltd.), Alice Belin (Milieu Ltd.), Lise Ouelès (Milieu Ltd.), Richard Graveling (IOM Consulting Ltd.), Joanne Crawford (IOM Consulting Ltd.), Julia Lietzmann (Milieu Ltd. - for Germany), Agnes Said (Milieu Ltd. - for Sweden), George D. Konstantinopoulos (Milieu Ltd. - for Greece), Maciek Dobras (IOM Consulting Ltd. - for Poland) and Kacys Algirdas Kaminskas (IOM Consulting Ltd. - for Lithuania)
Policy area | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword | change of job | European Agency for Safety and Health at Work | job satisfaction | economic recession | social dialogue | occupational health | mental health | mental stress
Summary | The study presents recent trends on stress at work as well as an overview of EU and national measures to tackle this problem, especially in the context of the economic and financial crisis. The report also includes a number of case studies illustrating initiatives that have proven successful in improving workers' mental well-being, in particular during restructuring. Given the ongoing concern about the impact of the economic and financial crisis on the mental health of workers, one of the main recommendations put forward in the study is that the next Strategy, or any other relevant European framework on occupational health and safety, should include stress at work as a priority area.

Study | EN

The Role and Activities of Employment Agencies

Publication type | Study
--- | ---
Date | 14-06-2013
External author | Werner Eichhorst (IZA), Michela Braga (Fondazione Rodolfo DeBenedetti), Andrea Broughton (Institute for Employment Studies), An de Coen (IDEA consult), Henri Culoit (UCL Leuven), Filip Dorssemont (UCL Leuven), Ulrike Famira-Mühlberger (WIFO), Maarten Gerard (IDEA consult), Ulrike Huemer (WIFO), Michael J. Kendzia (IZA), Jakob Louis Pedersen (NIRAS) and Ewa Slezak (Krakow University of Economics)
Policy area | Employment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword | self-regulation | labour law | United Kingdom | administrative control | Belgium | EC Directive | Italy | Poland | Germany | temporary employment agency | amendment of a law | international labour law | Denmark
Summary | This study provides an overview of the importance and activities of employment agencies as well as their legal framework (WTO, ILO, EU) in the EU Member States and closely examines their role in selected countries, while focusing on temporary work agencies, a significantly growing market within the EU. Due to limited data, there is no clear-cut result on the agencies' longer-term impact. However, the four identified market types (market driven, social dialogue based, legislator driven and emerging markets) are analysed through country cases regarding national regulations, the treatment of workers and everyday functioning of the agencies. It becomes evident that there is a wide diversity of the branch, which needs to be taken into account when reviewing EU Directive 2008/104/EC.

Study | EN
The Erasmus+ Programme (Regulation EU No. 1288/2013): European Implementation Assessment

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Author: Anna ZYGIEREWICZ

External author - Research paper analysing the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme – Learning mobility of individuals in the field of education, training and youth (Key Action 1), written by Prof. Dr. Thomas Köhler from the Technical University of Dresden and Prof. Dr. Daniel Apollon from the University of Bergen

- Research paper analysing the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices in the field of education, training and youth (Key Action 2), written by Dr. Juha Kettunen from the Turku University of Applied Sciences

Policy area: Culture | Transposition and Implementation of Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Education

Keyword: teacher training | project evaluation | vocational training | cooperation in the field of education | education statistics | EU financing | EU programme | educational exchange | sport | multilingualism | adult education | project management

Summary: This European Implementation Assessment has been provided to accompany the work of the European Parliament’s Committee on Culture and Education in scrutinising the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme. The Erasmus+ programme for Union action in the field of education, training, youth and sport was launched on 1 January 2014 and will run until 31 December 2020. It brings together seven successful programmes which operated separately between 2007 and 2013 (the Lifelong Learning Programme, five international cooperation programmes and the Youth in Action programme), and also adds the area of sports activities. The opening analysis of this Assessment, prepared in-house by the Ex-Post Impact Assessment Unit within EPRS, situates the programme within the context of education policy, explains its legal framework and provides key information on its implementation. The presentation is followed by opinions and recommendations of selected stakeholders. A separate chapter is dedicated to the sport, which is the new element of the Erasmus+ programme. Input to the EIA was also received from two independent groups of experts representing the Technical University of Dresden and the University of Bergen, and the Turku University of Applied Sciences. The first research paper presents implementation of Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning mobility of individuals in the field of education, training and youth. The second research paper presents implementation of Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices in the field of education, training and youth. The two research papers, containing key findings and recommendations, are included in annexes to the in-house opening analysis.

Study: EN

The Impact of the Crisis on Fundamental Rights across Member States of the EU - Comparative Analysis

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External author: Aleksandra Ivanković Tamamović (Milieu Ltd., Belgium)


Keyword: Cyprus | pension scheme | austerity policy | social rights | monetary crisis | comparative study | Belgium | Ireland | Italy | Spain | impact study | Portugal | Greece | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | economic rights | political rights

Summary: Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this study presents a synthesis of studies conducted in seven Member States regarding the impact of financial and economic crises, and austerity measures imposed in response thereto, on fundamental rights of individuals. The Member States studied were: Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Portugal. The impact of measures is examined in relation to the rights to: education, healthcare, work, pension, access to justice, as well as freedom of expression and assembly in all seven Member States, while a number of State-specific rights are also looked into, such as the right to housing, right to property or some rights at work. In addition, an overview is made of the mechanisms available for monitoring compliance with international human rights obligations. In view of the impacts recorded, recommendations are made for EU action to ensure respect for fundamental rights in times of austerity. The seven country studies are made available separately.

Study: EN
**Occupational Health and Safety Risks for the Most Vulnerable Workers**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-07-2011  
**External author** Alice Belin, Tony Zamparutti, Kerina Tul and Guillermo Hernandez (Milieu Ltd, Brussels, Belgium)  
**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment | Public Health  
**Keyword** older worker | worker with disabilities | female worker | occupational safety | young worker | working poor | working environment | migrant worker | unskilled worker | EU employment policy  
**Summary** Each of the groups of workers studied – women, ageing workers, workers with disabilities, young workers, migrant workers, temporary workers and low-qualified workers – faces specific occupational health and safety risks. While the EU has a strong body of legislation and a comprehensive strategy addressing worker health and safety, further action could be taken to protect vulnerable groups. Options are proposed, drawing on the analysis of needs as well as a review of specific measures implemented in the Member States.

**Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and the Implication of Conscientious Objection**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 31-10-2018  
**Author** Martina SCHONARD  
**External author** CF Consulting Services Ltd  
**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice  
**Keyword** approximation of laws | competence of the Member States | EU Member State | health service | gender reassignment | contraception | women's rights | gender equality | ethics | right to health | reproductive health | health care system | cancer | abortion  
**Summary** This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee. It aims to provide a comparative overview of the situation in European Union, with particular focus on six selected Member States, in terms of access to sexual and reproductive healthcare goods and services (such as medicines) and services (such as abortion and family planning), from both legal and practical perspectives. The study looks at the extent to which conscientious objection affects access to sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR). The study will contribute to formulating a clear framework for the improvement of access to sexual and reproductive healthcare goods and services in the EU.

**The Gender Pension Gap: Differences between Mothers and Women without Children**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-07-2016  
**External author** Manuela Samek  
**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity  
**Keyword** pension scheme | relationship | data collection | comparative study | woman | gender equality | demographic analysis  
**Summary** This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee. Demographic trends and the financial and economic crisis have obliged European countries to accelerate the revision of their pension systems with the aim of ensuring their sustainability. However, serious question on the effects these reforms on pension adequacy have been raised. This report summarises recent changes in pension reforms and their effects on gender pension gaps, with a focus on women with children. The assessment of recent pension reforms in a gender perspective shows that changes in pension design may increase the gender gap in pensions and translate into higher poverty risks for older women compared to men, unless specific measures are implemented in Member States to support women's position in the labour market and to address periods out of the labour market due to caring duties.

**Skills development and employment: The role of career management skills**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 16-10-2017  
**Author** Susanne KRAATZ  
**Policy area** Forward Planning | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment | Education  
**Keyword** professional career | education policy | updating of skills | vocational training | employment policy | EU Member State  
**Summary** This note analyses the concept 'career management skills' (also called career competencies) in the context of the New Skills Agenda and the undergoing review of the European key competences framework. It gives an overview of policy developments in this area at European and at national level including good practices in the fields of education and employment. Further, the note summarises results from evaluations with a view to evidence of impact. It has been prepared by Policy Department A to support the work of the Committees on Employment and Social Affairs, Culture and Education.
The underlying causes of the digital gender gap and possible solutions for enhanced digital inclusion of women and girls

Publication type Study
Date 15-02-2018

External author MS KONSTANTINA DAVAKI

Policy area Intellectual Property Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword computer crime | labour market | digitisation | updating of skills | information technology | digital divide | digital technology | gender equality | information technology profession

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, attempts to reveal the link between the different factors (access, skills, socio-economic and cultural), which prevent women from having equal access to digital technology. It then suggests ways of dealing with online and offline inequalities to the effect of closing the digital gender gap and improving women's and girls' digital inclusion and future technology-related career paths.

Study EN

Mapping the Cost of Non-Europe, 2014-19 - Fourth edition

Publication type Study
Date 07-12-2017

Author WOLFGANG HILLER


Keyword single market | company law | corporation tax | Economic and Monetary Union | water management | transport policy | women’s rights | international relations | rule of law | research policy | workers’ representation | equal pay | tax avoidance | Schengen Agreement | euro area

Summary This study brings together work in progress on a long-term project to identify and analyse the 'cost of non-Europe' in a number of policy fields. This concept, first pioneered by the European Parliament in the 1980s, is used here to quantify the potential efficiency gains in today's European economy through pursuing a series of policy initiatives recently advocated by Parliament – from a wider and deeper digital single market to more systematic coordination of national and European defence policies or increased cooperation to fight corporate tax avoidance. The benefits are measured principally in additional GDP generated or more rational use of public resources. The latest analysis suggests that the European economy could be boosted by €1.75 trillion per year – or 12 % of EU-28 GDP (2016) – by such measures over time. The study is intended to make a contribution to the on-going discussion about the European Union's policy priorities over the current five-year institutional cycle, running from 2014 to 2019.

Study EN

Finding the right balance across EU FTAs: benefits and risks for EU economic sectors

Publication type Study
Date 17-10-2018

External author Christopher HARTWELL, Veronika MOVCHAN

Policy area International Trade

Keyword free-trade agreement | Japan | Indonesia | Canada | European Union | Colombia | Mercosur | Mexico | South Korea | Central America | Peru | association agreement (EU) | international trade | Vietnam

Summary Globally, anti-trade sentiment is on the rise, meaning it is incumbent upon policymakers to explore and explain the benefits of free and open trade. This study examines the costs and benefits of various free trade agreements (FTAs) that the EU has completed, will complete, or is contemplating. With regard to completed FTAs, the EU has seen benefits in terms of consumer choice but has a much larger and positive impact on its partners (although not as much as ex-ante modelling would suggest). For forthcoming or contemplated FTAs, the issue of non-tariff barriers must be considered for FTAs with developed economies to be a success, while comprehensive liberalisation with emerging markets improves trade and other outcomes for both the EU and its partner. Across all FTAs, trade and economic metrics are improved by an agreement while indirect effects (human rights, environment) are less likely to change. We conclude that the EU must continue its focus on comprehensive liberalisation, incorporating NTBs effectively into new agreements, while tempering expectations of influence on human rights.

Study EN

Research for AGRI Committee - Urban and peri-urban Agriculture in the EU

Publication type Study
Date 16-04-2018

External author A. Piorr, I. Zasada, A. Doernberg, F. Zoll, W. Ramme (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF))

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Consumer Protection | Regional Development

Keyword sustainable agriculture | statistics | EAFRD | EU regional policy | food security | urban area | land use | suburban area

Summary This study presents a state of the art overview on urban agriculture and peri-urban agriculture (UPUA), the diversity of phenomena, motivations, distinctive features, benefits and limitations. UPUA is contextualized in relation to societal and economic transformations, EU strategic objectives, policies and regional food system approaches. Using best practice examples, the study demonstrates the need for an improved integration of UPUA into the policy agenda across sectors, domains and governance levels.

Study EN
**Invisible jobs: The situation of domestic workers**

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 08-12-2015  
Author: Monika KISS  
Policy area: Employment

**Keyword**  
- service occupation  
- social rights  
- working conditions  
- trafficking in human beings  
- job security  
- migrant worker  
- social-security benefit  
- UN convention  
- moonlighting  
- labour standard  
- slavery  
- international labour law  
- working poor

**Summary**  
Domestic workers are persons engaged in household services such as childcare, care of the elderly or housekeeping – via a formal or informal employment relationship. They can be nationals of the country or migrants, and can have varied working conditions, involving living within or outside the household. More than 90% of the domestic workers in the world are women.

Due to the ‘invisible’ and sometimes illegal nature of their job, domestic workers are often confronted by problems such as low pay, irregular residence and employment conditions, no social security or benefits, no access to childcare facilities for their own children and limited time off work. Some subgroups, such as immigrants or live-in workers, are particularly vulnerable to discrimination.

Despite initiatives in several European Union Member States, domestic workers are not always offered protection by national labour laws, and opportunities for ‘decent work’ can be limited.

The implementation by the Member States of Convention No 189 and Recommendation No 201 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) could provide domestic workers with guarantees of decent work and similar working conditions to those of workers in other economic sectors.

**Precarious employment in Europe: Country cases**

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 23-08-2016  
Author: Susanne KRAATZ  
External author: Andrea Broughton, Werner Eichhorst et al.

Policy area: Forward Planning | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment

**Keyword**  
- France  
- United Kingdom  
- Netherlands  
- comparative study  
- labour flexibility  
- non-standard employment  
- Spain  
- Poland  
- Germany  
- employment statistics  
- Lithuania  
- labour standard  
- working poor  
- Denmark  
- work contract

**Summary**  
This note by Policy Department A gives a summary of the study "Precarious employment in Europe: Country cases". The study contains the results of eight country reviews carried out in the framework of the European Parliament study on Precarious Employment in Europe: Patterns, trends and policy strategies. The featured countries are Denmark, France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

**Integration of refugees in Greece, Hungary and Italy: Comparative Analysis**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 20-12-2017  
External author: Manuela SAMEK LODOVICI (project leader), IRS- Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale  
Serena Marianna DRUFUCA, IRS- Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale  
Nicola ORLANDO, IRS- Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale  
Chiara Crepaldi, IRS- Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale  
Flavia PESCE, IRS- Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale  
Spyros KOULOCHERIS, Greek Council of Refugees  
Szilvia BORBELY, PhD in Economics, freelance researcher.

Policy area: Social Policy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment

**Keyword**  
- statistics  
- European Structural and Investment Funds  
- data collection  
- EU Member State  
- housing need  
- refugee  
- Italy  
- Hungary  
- impact study  
- EU aid  
- health care system  
- integration of migrants  
- Greece  
- distribution of EU funding  
- demographic analysis

**Summary**  
This study presents a comparative overview of recent policy developments in Greece, Hungary and Italy, which present some similarities as regards their position in the migration routes, but also very different approaches. The focus of the analysis is on progress achieved in the last three years in the adaptation of the reception and integration system for the high numbers of new arrivals and on the main challenges encountered, with a focus on labour market integration measures. Further, special attention is given to changes in perceptions, public opinion and political discourse with respect to the asylum and integration of refugees and how this influenced policy strategies.
Employment Conditions in the International Road Haulage Sector

Summary
This document, provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, analyses trends in the employment conditions of drivers in this sector. In particular, it aims to review whether the current regulatory framework including the Posting of Workers Directive is achieving the desired balance between market integration and social protection of workers, and what steps can be taken to ensure this balance in the future.

Research for TRAN Committee - Overtourism: impact and possible policy responses

Summary
This study addresses the complex phenomenon of overtourism in the EU. By focusing on a set of case studies, the study reports on overtourism indicators, discusses management approaches implemented within different destinations and assesses policy responses. It concludes that a common set of indicators cannot be defined because of the complex causes and effects of overtourism. Avoiding overtourism requires custom-made policies in cooperation between destinations' stakeholders and policymakers.

Research for CULT Committee - Teaching Common Values in Europe

Summary
Attention to the teaching of values has recently increased and is evident in the education policies of all EU Member States, also for the values of democracy and tolerance. Teaching Common Values (TCV) is fairly important in half of the EU Member States. However, TCV is often not very strongly implemented in education policy in terms of concrete curriculum instruments and in supporting measures. This results in practices that do not always give real attention to TCV.
**US-Russia relations: Reaching the point of no return?**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 03-10-2018  
**Author** Martin RUSSELL  
**Policy area** Foreign Affairs  
**Keyword** arms policy | United States | Ukraine | international relations | Central and Eastern Europe | presidential election | economic sanctions | human rights | foreign investment | development aid | Russia | NATO | occupied territory | cold war

**Summary** In August 2018, Russia's embassy in Washington claimed that US-Russia relations were moving towards irreversible breakdown. Long-standing bilateral tensions have been aggravated in recent years by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, sanctions, and accusations of Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections. Initially, Donald Trump's electoral victory raised hopes in Russia that tensions could ease. But while Trump often appears to share Russian wishes to move from confrontation to a more transactional relationship, a rift has opened up between him and the rest of the US political establishment, which insists that the differences between the two countries are too fundamental to be easily set aside. Growing hostility towards Russia has led to harsher rhetoric and increasingly draconian sanctions. Alongside these more recent developments, US-Russia relations have been complicated for many years by fundamental foreign policy differences. The US sees itself as a global leader and champion of liberal values. For its part, Russia resents what it perceives as US hegemony and unwarranted interference in other countries' internal affairs. Russia is far from being a military equal to the US. Nevertheless, Moscow's nuclear arsenal makes it a potentially formidable adversary. A series of arms-control agreements aims to contain the threat of an arms race or even conflict between the two sides. However, deteriorating relations are making such arrangements look increasingly precarious. Compared to political and security issues, economic ties play only a minor role in US-Russia relations. Bilateral trade and investment have suffered from tensions and are likely to remain limited, not least due to sanctions.

**Reform Support Programme 2021-2027**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 13-03-2019  
**Author** Agnieszka WIDUTO  
**Policy area** Economics and Monetary Issues | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
**Keyword** non-participating country | EU aid | structural adjustment | EP Committee | economic convergence | EU financial instrument | EU Member State | institutional reform | administrative reform | EU programme | proposal (EU)

**Summary** The European Commission adopted the proposal on the establishment of the Reform Support Programme on 31 May 2018, as part of the package for the upcoming multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027. The programme will provide financial and technical support for Member States to implement reforms aimed at increasing the resilience of their economies and modernising them, including priority reforms identified in the European Semester. The overall budget for the programme is €25 billion. It comprises three elements: a reform delivery tool (financial support); a Technical Support Instrument (technical expertise, building on the current Structural Reform Support Programme 2017-2020); and a convergence facility (preparation for adopting the euro). The Reform Support Programme will be open to all Member States on a voluntary basis, with no co-financing required. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and Committee on Budgets (BUDG) are working jointly on this file under Rule 55 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure. A vote in the joint committee meeting is expected on 1 April 2019, with a vote in plenary thereafter, during the second April 2019 part-session. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

**Mis-selling of Financial Products: Mortgage Credit**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 13-06-2018  
**External author** Fernando ZUNZUNEGUI  
**Policy area** Transposition and Implementation of Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Consumer Protection | Financial and Banking Issues  
**Keyword** consumer protection | EU control | financial solvency | EU Member State | financial planning | conflict of interest | financial control | administrative transparency | financial institution | market supervision | mortgage | investment company

**Summary** This paper forms part of a series of five studies on mis-selling of financial products in the EU. The mis-selling of mortgage loans that include floor clauses, foreign currencies (forex) clauses and related products is the subject of this research. We analyse the context, the handling of the problem in the most affected Member States (Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Spain) and its compatibility with EU law. We conclude with recommendations. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the ECON Committee.
The Advantages of a Gender-Sensitive Approach to Tackle Youth Unemployment

**Policy area** Social Policy | Transposition and Implementation of Law | Employment
**Keyword** gender | youth | unemployment | community | Charter | Fundamental | Social | Rights | of | Workers | Economic | and | Monetary | Union | impact | study | worker | information | Community | Charter | of | the | Fundamental | Social | Rights | of | Workers | EC | Directive | EU | law | remuneration | of | work | | working | conditions | EC | Directive | EU | employment | policy
**Summary** The Written Statement Directive obliges employers to provide employees with a written statement on the essential aspects of the work contract or employment relationship. Despite the fact that the directive was transposed into the legal systems of all Member States, the reports show several cases of its incorrect or inadequate implementation. Furthermore, new forms of employment have emerged since the directive's adoption in 1991, which it does not cover. Court of Justice jurisprudence clarifying several of the directive's provisions has to be taken into account as well. The European Parliament has called on the European Commission to update the Written Statement Directive so that it would react to these challenges. Similarly, the EESC has recommended that the existing legislation be updated. Furthermore, the representatives of various stakeholder groups have voiced requests to update this piece of EU legislation. Last, but not least, the European Commission itself has expressed the willingness to revise the Written Statement Directive as part of the REFIT exercise. It is expected that the Commission will submit this proposal on 26 April 2017.

**Briefing** EN

The Written Statement Directive

**Publication type** Briefing
**Date** 04-04-2017
**Author** Milan REMAC

Posting of Workers Directive

**Publication type** Briefing
**Date** 31-05-2018
**Author** Monika KISS

Abused Domestic Workers in Europe : The Case of Au Pairs

**Publication type** Study
**Date** 14-10-2011

Abused Domestic Workers in Europe : The Case of Au Pairs

**Publication type** Study
**Date** 15-04-2013

**External author** Manuela Samek Lodovici and Monica Patrizio (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale - IRS, Italy), Agneta Stark (Sweden), Daniel Molinuevo (Eurofound, Ireland), Matthias Sutter (University of Innsbruck, Austria), Antigone Lyberaki and Katie McCracken (OpCit Research, UK) and Flavia Pesce and Eugenia De Rosa (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale - IRS, Italy)

**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment

**Keyword** worker | adaptability | youth | unemployment | female | unemployment | integration | into | employment | child | care | job | access | job | security | gender | equality | EU | employment | policy

**Summary** Proceedings of the workshop on "The Advantages of a Gender-Sensitive Approach to Tackle Youth Unemployment", held on 23 April 2013 in Brussels.

**Study** EN

**Source : © European Union, 2020 - EP**
New Forms of Physical and Psychosocial Health Risks at Work

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2008

External author: Irene Houtman, Marjolein Douwes, Tanja de Jong, Jan Michiel Meeuwse, Mat Jongen, Frank Brekelmans, Marieke Nieboer-Op de Weegh, Dick Brouwer, Seth van den Bossche and Gerard Zegers (TNO)
Dietmar Reinert, Ina Neitzner, Angelika Hauke, Eva Flaspöler, Hanna Zieschang, Annette Kolk, Eberhardt Nies and Heike Brundermann-Prieshoff (BGIA)
Danuta Roman and Jolanta Karpowicz (CIOP)
Heloisa Perista and Jorge Cabrita (Cesis)
Antonio Corral (IKEI)

Policy area: Employment | Public Health

Keyword: labour market | occupational psychology | occupational physiology | dangerous substance | health risk | allergy | occupational health

Summary: The aim of the report was to get a better understanding of the implications and interactions of the physical and psychosocial risks related to work and the workplace in order to identify whether legislative actions should be considered, and, if so, in which specific areas and/or for which specific groups (for instance age, gender, vulnerable workers, self-employed, etc.). Risks to workers' health, for example physical inactivity, work intensification, work-life imbalance, an increase in allergies, as well as the amplified use of dangerous substances (i.e. nano-particles, endocrine disruptors, electromagnetic fields, etc.) and the impact of global epidemics have been analysed in greater detail.

Study EN

Gender equality in employment and occupation. European Implementation Assessment

Publication type: Study
Date: 29-05-2015

Author: Helmut WERNER

Policy area: Social Policy | Transposition and Implementation of Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment

Keyword: pension scheme | sexual discrimination | France | United Kingdom | motherhood | application of EU law | Netherlands | maternity leave | parental leave | EC Directive | gender equality | Spain | Germany | Latvia | equal treatment | equal pay | Slovakia | Sweden | Malta | EU statistics

Summary: The principle of equal pay is anchored in the EEC founding Treaty of 1957. Directive 2006/54/EC was a recast of secondary law dating back to 1975 pursuing gender equality in (access to) employment and it 'consolidated' case law in this area developed by the European Court of Justice. This European Implementation Assessment is based on input received from four independent groups of experts (included as annexes) on different aspects of the application of the Recast Directive: legal aspects and in particular direct and indirect discrimination; proper consideration of the role of job evaluation and classification systems; necessary protection of pregnancy and the role of maternity leave and related schemes in view of gender equality at work and for careers. The assessment concludes that there is a very strong case for immediate and vigorous actions at EU level, going beyond voluntary measures, in line with EP resolutions.

Study EN

The Impact of the Crisis on Fundamental Rights across Member States of the EU - Country Report on Italy

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-03-2015

External author: Giuseppe Nastasi and Giuseppe Palmisano


Keyword: right to work | pension scheme | austerity policy | freedom of expression | access to the courts | freedom of assembly | monetary crisis | Italy | right to health | impact study | health care system | right to justice | right to education | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Summary: Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this study looks into the impact of the economic crisis and the austerity measures which were introduced as a response thereto, to the enjoyment of a set of selected fundamental rights by individuals in Italy. It also contains recommendations on how to make sure that the enjoyment of these rights is ensured in the future.

Study EN
Social Inclusion in EU Public Transport

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-03-2015

External author: Manuela Samek Lodovici and Nicoletta Torchio

Policy area: Transport | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword: poverty | impact study | intelligent transport system | elderly person | unemployed person | means of public conveyance | common transport policy | marginalisation | passenger tariff | social integration | facilities for the disabled

Summary: This report describes the links between transport and social inclusion according to the recent literature and provides evidence regarding the population groups at greater risk of social and transport exclusion. It also provides examples of good practice in improving public transport accessibility for the most vulnerable users, in order to derive some indications for improvement of the EU role in facilitating the mainstreaming of social inclusion issues in public transport policies.

Study: EN

Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV
New Strategy on Health and Safety at Work 2007-2012 - Compilation of Briefing Notes

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2007
External author: Karl Kuhn (Froendenberg, Germany), Jorma Rantanen (Helsinki, Finland) and Jukka Takala (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Bilbao, Spain)
Policy area: Employment | Public Health
Keyword: older worker | labour inspectorate | European Agency for Safety and Health at Work | temporary employment | application of EU law | occupational accident | female work | occupational health | subcontracting | small and medium-sized enterprises
Summary: Two briefing notes on the 'New Strategy on Health and Safety at work 2007-2012' focus on the comparability of data and statistics in occupational health and safety, implementation and simplification of OSH directives without reducing the level of protection, targeted measures and whether OSH legislation is applied at global level.

Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in Croatia

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-09-2017
External author: Valerija BOTRIĆ, The Institute of Economics, Zagreb.
Policy area: Employment
Keyword: poverty | statistics | non-governmental organisation | Croatia | traineeship | unemployment | European Social Fund | EU initiative | youth policy | EU employment policy | economic analysis | demographic analysis
Summary: The paper provides analysis of recent development in youth (un)employment and the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in Croatia. The analysis covers recent trends in the employment and unemployment indicators, policies adopted to fight youth unemployment and inactivity and the analysis of YEI role in the context of the goal to reduce unemployment. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament.

Global and regional trends [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 30-11-2018
Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI
Policy area: Research Policy | Forward Planning | Economics and Monetary Issues | Industry
Summary: The European Union’s key institutions held a joint conference on 28-29 November entitled ‘Global trends to 2030: Shaping the future in a fast-changing world’. The annual event was organised under the auspices of the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS), which is a framework for cooperation between the administrations of the European Parliament, the European Commission, Council of the European Union, European External Action Service and other bodies to work together on medium- and long-term trends facing or relating to the European Union. This note brings together commentaries, analyses and studies by major international think tanks and research institutes on longer term trends – global and regional, with a focus on Europe. Some reports listed here were presented at the conference, some others can be found in the ESPAS repository of strategic studies, named Orbis.

Radicalisation and violent extremism – focus on women:
How women become radicalised, and how to empower them to prevent radicalisation

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-12-2017
External author: Seran DE LEEDE
Renate HAUFFLEISCH
Katja KOROLKOVA
Monika NATTER
With contributions by:
Claudia CARVALHO (Case study Spain)
Hadiya MASIEH (Case study United Kingdom)
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Culture | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Education | Human Rights
Keyword: prevention of delinquency | fight against crime | international cooperation | education | extremism | terrorism | position of women | case study | women's rights
Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality, focuses on Islamist radicalisation and violent extremism in the EU and has two aims: 1) to explore and assess the question of women’s radicalisation and their involvement in violent extremism in the EU as well as to look into the mechanisms in place to prevent women and girls from radicalisation and propose further actions; and 2) to identify the potential of women in preventing radicalisation, in particular by looking into women’s current role in counter-radicalisation strategies and to explore potential gendered approaches and best practices to counter-radicalisation.
**Assistive technologies for people with disabilities**

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 15-01-2018  
Author: Philip Nicholas BOUCHER  
Keyword: medical device | European social policy | access to education | equal treatment | job access | facilities for the disabled | integration of the disabled | new technology  
Summary: Assistive technologies (ATs) are designed to improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. Some are relatively low-tech and very familiar, such as reading glasses, crutches and hearing aids. Others are more advanced, using cutting-edge science and technology, with future ATs under development that could have a huge impact on all our lives. This briefing provides an overview of a scientific foresight study of ATs for three specific types of disability: blindness and visual impairment, deafness and hearing impairment, and autism spectrum disorders.

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**Expansion of the concept of human rights: Impact on rights promotion and protection**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 20-03-2018  
External author: Giulia BONACQUISTI, Rosa FREEDMAN, Malcolm LANGFORD  
Policy area: Human Rights  
Keyword: UN convention | the EU's international role | social rights | protection of minorities | political rights | UN Human Rights Council | human rights  
Summary: This report summarises the proceedings of a workshop organised by the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI). Academics, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) discussed the potential positive and negative impacts of the expansion of the human rights concept on the lives of individuals. Some of the invited experts underlined that human rights have always evolved in response to changing historical contexts and that, despite some potential negative effects, empirical evidence suggests that the benefits of their expansion largely outweigh the costs. Others argued that certain expansions can have the effect of diluting the human rights system altogether and can be instrumental for states willing to undermine core civil and political rights and to avoid scrutiny of their own violations. Finally, the EEAS outlined the EU’s action on human rights protection and promotion around the globe and highlighted that the EU’s priority is to continue to exercise leadership and unity on human rights matters in multilateral fora.

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**Fit for Purpose? The Facilitation Directive and the Criminalisation of Humanitarian Assistance to Irregular Migrants**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 28-01-2016  
External author: Sergio CARRERA, Elspeth GUILD, Ana ALIVERTI, Jennifer ALLSOPP, Maria Giovanna MANIERI and Michele LEVOY  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice  
Keyword: France | United Kingdom | application of EU law | Netherlands | criminal law | trafficking in human beings | EU financing | EC Directive | Italy | Spain | humanitarian aid | Hungary | Germany | integration of migrants | Greece | civil society | illegal migration | human rights movement  
Summary: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee. With renewed efforts to counter people smuggling in the context of an unprecedented influx of migrants and refugees into the EU, it assesses existing EU legislation in the area – the 2002 Facilitators’ Package – and how it deals with those providing humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants. The study maps EU legislation against the international legal framework and explores the effects – both direct and indirect – of the law and policy practice in selected Member States. It finds significant inconsistencies, divergences and grey areas, such that humanitarian actors are often deterred from providing assistance. The study calls for a review of the legislative framework, greater legal certainty and improved data collection on the effects of the legislation.
Trafficking in Human Beings from a Gender Perspective (Directive 2011/36/EU): European Implementation Assessment

Publication type  Study  Date  29-04-2016

Author  Amandine Marie Anne SCHERRER | Helmut WERNER

External author  - Denise Charlton and Nusha Yonkova, on Ireland;
- Josie Christodoulou, on Cyprus and Greece;
- Ryszard Piotrowicz, Bärbel Uhl, Klara Škrivankova, Marjan Wijers, on Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden and the UK;
- Venla Roth, on Finland;
- Genoveva Tisheva and Nusha Yonkova, on Bulgaria;
- Viviana Waisman and Gema Fernandez Rodriguez de Liévana, on Spain.

Policy area  Transposition and Implementation of Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights
Keyword  fight against crime | EU Member State | application of EU law | help for victims | prostitution | child protection | position of women | trafficking in human beings | directive (EU) | gender mainstreaming | witness protection

Summary  Trafficking in human beings (THB), in all its forms, is a serious crime affecting fundamental rights, health, social life, economy and justice. THB knows no boundaries and most reported victims are female EU nationals from Central and Eastern Europe. THB can be tackled effectively only through a coherent approach at the levels of legislation and executive powers and through strategic policy-making. Proper investigation and prosecution are important and enhance victim protection and assistance as well as prevention. However, taking into account the gender dimension of THB is essential to ensure adequate support for the victims as well as effective prevention. The 2011 EU Anti-Trafficking Directive represents a landmark piece of legislation in that respect. The Ex-Post Impact Assessment Unit of the European Parliament has asked several groups of experts to analyse the implementation and application of the Directive, from a gender perspective, in 12 Member States: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, the UK and Spain. The contributions received point to an uneven implementation of the Directive's requirements across the EU Member States. The findings emphasise the need to improve the identification of victims, which is key for granting them protection, to establish better training on the gender aspects of the different forms of human trafficking for front-line officers, to enhance cooperation between public administration and competent NGOs, and to expand prevention via public awareness campaigning.

Employment and Skills Aspects of the Digital Single Market Strategy

Publication type  Study  Date  16-11-2015

External author  Daphne Valsamis (IDEA Consult)

Policy area  Social Policy | Employment
Keyword  single market | personnel administration | labour law | vocational training | digital literacy | labour shortage | digital divide | teleworking | working conditions | skill obsolescence | social security | electronic commerce | new type of employment | economic consequence | postal service

Summary  The ongoing and anticipated impact of digitalisation and the digital single market not only provides opportunities, but also presents challenges in terms of the job dynamics and changes in working conditions. The net effects of digitalisation on employment are ambiguous, but job losses in certain sectors are inevitable. Classic employer-employee relationships are also under pressure. The transformation of jobs calls for different skills requirements which could lead to growing skill gaps and mismatch in the labour market.

Mitigating labour market dualism: Single Open-Ended Contracts and other instruments

Publication type  Briefing  Date  16-08-2018

Author  Susanne KRAATZ

Keyword  labour market | temporary employment | EU Member State | work contract | economic analysis

Summary  This briefing summarises key results from a comprehensive study prepared at request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee. It concludes with a discussion of policy options to mitigate the negative side effects of increasing temporary employment.
Protectionism and international diplomacy

Publication type: Study
Date: 25-06-2018
External author: Ms Kamala DAWAR

Policy area: International Trade, Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy, United States, United Kingdom, withdrawal from an agreement, trade relations, protectionism, China, World Trade Organisation, institutional reform, EU situation, tariff negotiations, trade policy, international trade, withdrawal from the EU, geopolitics, globalisation, economic situation

Summary: Just three decades after the fall of the Berlin Wall signifying the end of Cold War aggression and the ascendancy of international liberalism, the world faces even greater uncertainty. In every region of the world, geopolitical shifts are taking place that have brought offensive trade agendas to the fore. The US has withdrawn from underwriting the post-World War Two international economic and foreign policy architecture, instead proposing to build a wall between itself and neighbouring Mexico, imposing unilateral tariff increases while refusing to negotiate new international agreements. In Europe, the project of ever greater integration has been attacked by Brexit, as well as other populist sentiment against the perceived power of EU institutions and the forces of globalisation. The breakdown of the western coalition advocating global governance has left a power vacuum that other key players such as China are forced to respond to. These current tectonic shifts in power and foreign policy positions impact on every country and every individual in the early 21st century. While many governments strive to maintain international cooperation and further integration, it is an unpredictable era. For trade policy has established itself firmly within the arena of high foreign diplomacy and as a result, traditional assumptions and adherence to international norms can no longer be assumed in such a state of political and economic flux. Yet when trade policy becomes a tool of diplomacy and foreign policy, sound economic reasoning can be lost to political decision making. This report shines a spotlight on the rise of protectionism in the 21st century. It examines the diplomatic dynamics behind economic nationalism and its attack on the established liberal international institutions that were created after the second World War to settle disputes without recourse to war. Before focusing on the US, UK, EU and China, the first chapter centers on the threat to economic integration and cooperation in promoting sustainable development through the multilateral rules-based system established under the World Trade Organization.

Obstacles to the Right of Free Movement and Residence for EU Citizens and their Families: Country Report for Belgium

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2016
External author: Nathalie Meurens (Milieu Ltd.) and Jozefien Van Caeneghem (Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium).
Under the guidance of Milieu Ltd. (Belgium), Project Managers: Nathalie Meurens and Gillian Kelly

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, Petitions to the European Parliament
Keyword: visa policy, family, freedom of movement, Belgium, European citizenship, residence permit, foreign national, discrimination on the basis of nationality, national implementing measure

Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizen’s Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE and PETI Committees, analyses the current status of transposition of selected provisions of Directive 2004/38/EC in France and identifies the main persisting barriers to free movement for EU citizens and their family members in French law and practice. The study also examines discriminatory restrictions to free movement, measures to counter abuse of rights and refusals of entry and residence rights, in addition to expulsions.

Analysis of Five National Reform Programmes 2012 Regarding the Pursuit of the Union’s Gender Equality Objectives

Publication type: Study
Date: 03-12-2012
External author: Antigone Lyberaki, Elvira González and Daniel Schmidt (Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, Italy). Country experts: Ania Plomien, Anita Nyberg and Nadja Bergmann

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: female worker, EU Member State, equal pay, economic recession, participation of women, position of women, care of mothers and infants, gender equality

Summary: This study evaluates the Member States’ progress towards the EU’s gender equality objectives in the context of the EU 2020 Strategy and of the European Semester. As gender-specific indicators are not applied in the current policy coordination process, the study offers constructive guidance for policy makers at national and EU level on how to address gender equality aspects deemed essential to achieve the EU 2020 targets in the framework of the 2013 European Semester process.
A New Strategy for Gender Equality Post 2015
Publication type: Study
Date: 01-08-2014
External author: Fiona Beveridge, Firat Cengiz, Eleanor Drywood (University of Liverpool, the UK)
Prof Marcella Corsi, Università “La Sapienza”, Rome, Italy
Prof Dorota Szelewa, Warsaw University, Poland / ICRA Foundation, Warsaw, Poland
Prof Eloyone Lépinard, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
Levent Altan, Milieu, Belgium
Dr Petra Debusscher, University of Antwerp, Belgium
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: European social policy | sexual discrimination | equal treatment | sexual violence | political involvement | participation of women | position of women | parental leave | female work | gender equality | European Institute for Gender Equality
Summary: Upon request by the FEMM Committee, the Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs Policy Department will hold a workshop on “A new strategy for gender equality post 2015”. The Workshop will provide an analysis and respective recommendations for actions to be taken by the European Commission and other European actors before 2020 in 7 different areas to improve the situation of women and to reach gender equality: Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Budgeting and monitoring; Economic independence and the position of women on the labour market; Maternity leave, paternity leave and parental leave and unpaid care work; Women in political and economic decision-making; Dignity, integrity and violence against women; and Gender aspects of foreign affairs and development cooperation.
Study: EN

Brexit, financial stability and the supervision of clearing systems
Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-02-2018
External author: Andromachi GEORGOSOULI, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London
Keyword: financial supervision | third country | United Kingdom | operation of the Institutions | payment system | regulatory policy | withdrawal from the EU | clearing agreement | European Central Bank | European Securities and Markets Authority | monetary policy
Summary: This paper examines the evolution of the supervisory framework of third-country CCPs in the EU making special reference to risks associated with the imminent withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Brexit). Its key finding is that the proposed reform is in principle in the right direction but there are still challenges ahead and a more comprehensive package of measures will be required to address them.
In-Depth Analysis: EN

ESF Policies as a Mitigating Factor During the Crisis
Publication type: Study
Date: 16-01-2017
External author: Giancarlo Dente, Amerigo Lombardi, Costanza Pagnini and Silvia Sansonetti
Keyword: labour market | unemployment | EU Member State | European Social Fund | economic recession
Summary: This study evaluates the reactivity of the ESF 2007-2013 in the face of the crisis, including a comparison with the changed modalities for the 2014–2020 funding period. It concludes that the most ‘in need’ target-groups have been covered by ESF interventions, without however reaching all potential recipients, due to limitations of scope and resources. Recommendations to Member States and European Commission are also provided.
Study: EN

Dual Education: A Bridge over Troubled Waters?
Publication type: Study
Date: 16-06-2014
External author: Stelina Chatzichristou, Daniela Ulicna, Ilona Murphy and Anette Curth (ICF International)
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Education
Keyword: educational reform | Czechia | France | United Kingdom | vocational training | Finland | Netherlands | education costs | Italy | Poland | Germany | Portugal | Greece | educational system | comparative education
Summary: This study examines the strengths and weaknesses of dual education/apprenticeships and explores policy developments in the EU-28 in relation to the introduction and/or improvement of apprenticeship schemes. The study is based on data from a variety of sources, including academic literature and in-depth research in 10 EU countries. It identifies the characteristics of four main forms of VET delivery in relation to the role of work-based learning and suggests ways that countries could promote apprenticeships within the context of their educational, social and economic frameworks. It also provides recommendations to country and European policy makers that may be used to improve the vocational and training offer across Europe.
Study: DE, EN, FR, PT
Executive summary: EN, IT
Women in the Western Balkans: Gender equality in the EU accession process

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 18-07-2018
Author: Velina LILYANOVA
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: equality between women and men | gender equality | right to work | national statistics | austerity policy | labour relations | social security | right to health | social budget | right to education | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | political rights | impact study | right to justice | national law | Portugal | right to education | economic recession | coordination of EMU policies | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Human Rights

Summary: This Briefing aims to highlight the EU's efforts to promote gender equality as part of EU enlargement policy, and the way the EU strives to mainstream equality across the board. It also aims to cast light on some major challenges that women face in the Western Balkans, such as their weaker roles in economy and politics, and widespread gender-based violence. This follows up the June 2017 briefing on ‘Rights and empowerment of women in the Western Balkans’.

Elderly Women Living Alone: An Update of Their Living Conditions

Publication type: Study
Date: 11-06-2015
External author: Manuela Samek Lodovici, Monica Patrizio, Flavia Pesce and Enrico Roletto
Keyword: poverty | pension scheme | structural adjustment | social policy | EU Member State | elderly person | household income | gender equality | retirement conditions | socioeconomic conditions | older worker | care for the elderly | population ageing | one person household

Summary: Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this study presents recent changes in the living conditions of elderly women living alone with a focus on the effects of recent pension reforms and active ageing policies. The study is largely based on a literature review and a desk analysis of the micro-data and information available at the European level, as well as a qualitative analysis of good practices in active ageing introduced in recent years in six countries selected as representative of European welfare systems.

Comparative Study of the Laws in the 27 EU Member States for Legal Immigration including an Assessment of the Conditions and formalities imposed by each Member State for Newcomers

Publication type: Study
Date: 29-02-2008
External author: Christine Adam and Alexandre Devillard International Migration Law and Legal Affairs Department, IOM
Keyword: migration control | EU migration policy | occupational migration | family migration | residence permit | admission of aliens | foreign national | foreign student

Summary: This study looks into the impact of the economic crisis and the austerity measures which were introduced as a response thereto, to the enjoyment of a set of selected fundamental rights by individuals in Portugal. It also contains recommendations on how to make sure that the enjoyment of these rights is ensured in the future.

The Impact of the Crisis on Fundamental Rights across Member States of the EU - Country Report on Portugal

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-03-2015
External author: Mariana Rodrigues Canotilho (Ius Gentium Conimbrigae)
Keyword: right to work | national statistics | austerity policy | labour relations | social security | right to health | social budget | impact study | right to justice | national law | Portugal | right to education | economic recession | coordination of EMU policies | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | political rights

Summary: Upon request by the LIBE committee, this study looks into the impact of the economic crisis and the austerity measures which were introduced as a response thereto, to the enjoyment of a set of selected fundamental rights by individuals in Portugal. It also contains recommendations on how to make sure that the enjoyment of these rights is ensured in the future.
The Policy on Gender Equality in Ireland - Update 2015

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 14-09-2015
External author: Ursula Barry
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: low pay | sexual discrimination | sexual violence | maternity leave | position of women | non-standard employment | female work | Ireland | gender equality | reproductive health | national law | birth control | equal pay | economic recession | participation of women | child care
Summary: Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this paper explores changes in gender equality legislation, policies and practices in Ireland with particular emphasis on the period from 2012-2015. Gender equality infrastructure, gender gaps in employment, unemployment, poverty and pay rates are analysed and women’s level of participation in political, economic and administrative decision-making in Ireland is detailed. Provision of childcare services, as well as the extent to which gender dimensions are taken into account in health and welfare policies, are also examined.

Future trade relations between the EU and the UK: Options after Brexit

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-03-2018
External author: Piet Eeckhout
Policy area: International Trade | Consumer Protection | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy | World Trade Organisation | economic consequence | United Kingdom | customs union | European Economic Area | trade dispute | trade agreement (EU) | trade relations | withdrawal from the EU | market access
Summary: This study analyses the various options for the future trade relations between the EU and the UK, after Brexit. It examines the various models against the canvas of two distinct paradigms: market integration and trade liberalization. It finds that an intermediate model, which would allow for continued convergence and mutual recognition in some sectors/freedoms, but not others, is unavailable and cannot easily be constructed for legal, institutional, and political reasons. The stark choice is between a customs union/free trade agreement, or continued internal market membership through the EEA or an equivalent agreement. The study further analyses the effects of Brexit on the UK’s continued participation in the trade agreements concluded by the EU. Notwithstanding a range of complexities, the study finds that such continued participation is not automatic but subject to negotiation.

Female Refugees and Asylum Seekers: The Issue of Integration

Publication type: Study
Date: 25-02-2016
External author: Silvia Sansonetti
Keyword: housing need | domestic violence | position of women | EU financing | trafficking in human beings | social facilities | political refugee | right to health | aid to refugees | female migrant | access to education | health care system | EU migration policy | integration of migrants | job access
Summary: Upon request by the FEMM Committee, the study presents an overview of the most important issues faced by refugees and asylum seeking women in their host country regarding access to appropriate housing, including privacy and shelter in case of domestic violence, training and language courses, the labour market, and the health systems, including psychological support and trauma healing. A summary of international standards and of applicable European laws, as well as details on available funding from the European level are provided. International promising projects illustrate the way forward.
Revision of the immigration liaison officers network: Implementation Appraisal

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-05-2018
Author: Amandine Marie Anne SCHERRER
Keyword: information network | third country | EC Regulation | EU police cooperation | public awareness campaign | EU migration policy | exchange of information | illegal migration | proposal (EU)
Summary: Preventing irregular migration to the EU is a central component of the EU approach to migration. The posting of immigration liaison officers (ILOs) in third countries by Member States to facilitate contacts with the authorities there is part of a multi-layered framework that combines external and internal policies. Although ILOs are a bilateral instrument used by the Member States, the ambition to create a stronger European dimension to their work led to the adoption, in 2004, of a regulation establishing an EU network of ILOs. The increasing pressure on Member States' immigration systems in recent years has led to new EU policies that impact the work and priorities of ILOs. In particular, the return of irregular migrants is a field in which operational support has been increasingly expected from ILOs. This priority has been accompanied by the creation of new EU actors in the field of return and re-admission, such as Frontex Liaison Officers, European Return Liaison Officers and European Migration Liaison Officers. Parallel to these changes in the area of EU immigration policies, evaluation of the ILOs Network Regulation has showed very mixed results as regards its relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and EU added value. A European Commission proposal to address these issues was tabled on 16 May 2018.

The Social and Employment Situation in Malta

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-10-2016
External author: Mario Vassallo
Policy area: Social Policy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment
Keyword: domestic consumption | labour market | statistics | foreign investment | social policy | economic growth | unemployment | migrant | youth employment | distribution of EU funding | refugee | Malta
Summary: This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. It gives an overview of the social and employment situation in Malta with a focus on indicators including social assistance and pension systems, social and employment legislation and policy, and about the inflow and integration of refugees, including tabulated data on these key topics.

The Social and Employment Situation in Slovakia and Outlook on the Slovak EU Presidency 2016

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-05-2016
External author: Martin KAHANEC (Central European Labour Studies Institute, CEU, EUBA, POP UNU, IZA) and Mária SEDLÁKOVÁ (Central European Labour Studies Institute)
Policy area: Employment
Keyword: poverty | national statistics | labour market | labour relations | vocational training | unemployment | EU Council Presidency | marginalisation | social security | migrant worker | social situation | pay policy | education policy | national law | employment structure | employment policy | Roma | Slovakia
Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Economic and Scientific Policy at the request of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament, presents key indicators on employment and poverty, reviews existing social and employment policies, and discusses the current issues relevant to this field. It also provides an outlook on the priorities of the Slovak EU presidency 2016.
Effect of Migration Policies on Human Rights in the European Neighbourhood

Publication type: Study
Date: 11-07-2011

External author: Wolfgang BENEDEK (University of Graz, Austria), Lisa HESCHL (study coordinator, University of Graz, Austria) and Anna Maria LEICHTFRIED (University of Graz, Austria), Adnan ĆERIMAGIĆ (University of Graz, Austria).

Case studies:
- Georgia: Gaga GABRICHIDZE (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia) and Irakli KOBAKHIDZE (Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia)
- Kosovo: Valon MURATI E.RMA (University of Priština, Kosovo)
- Lebanon: Eugene SENSENIG-DABBOUS (Notre Dame University, Louaize, Lebanon), Elie EL-HINDY (Notre Dame University, Louaize, Lebanon), Guita HOURANI (Notre Dame University, Louaize, Lebanon), Pamela CHEMALI (Research staff), Michele FENIANOS (Research staff), Joelle ZLAKET (Research staff), Liliane HADDAD (Collecting, Archiving, Indexing and Retrieving Research Material), Elie NABHAN (Collecting, Archiving, Indexing and Retrieving Research Material) and Elias SFEIR (Collecting, Archiving, Indexing and Retrieving Research Material)

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Human Rights

Keyword: Cooperation policy | EU migration policy | Mediterranean third countries | migrant | right of asylum | Central and Eastern Europe | foreign national | human rights

Summary: Cooperation with third states constitutes an important pillar of the EU’s migration policy. This study analyses to which extent the cooperation between the EU and its neighbouring countries had an impact on the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees in the respective countries. It gives a general overview of the state of the art of national migration policies and legislations in the Eastern and Western European neighbourhood and the Western Balkan states. Three case studies on Georgia, Kosovo and Lebanon illustrate further the country specific situation of migrants and refugees and provide for a detailed analysis of the implications the EU engagement had on the protection of human rights. The development of national migration policies was mainly due to the engagement of the EU, however, these policies have been shaped rather by EU security considerations than by national migration-related concerns leading to the adoption of very restrictive national migration policies likely to endanger the rights of migrants. The study concludes by offering a set of recommendations to encourage the EU to move the debate on future cooperation with neighbouring states on migration issues in a more migrants’ rights centred direction that is in compliance with the principles of the rule of law, good governance, democracy and human rights.

Study EN

Remaining legislative demands of the european parliament’s 7th legislative term

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-08-2014

Keyword: common commercial policy | single market | EU law | common foreign and security policy | EU environmental policy | European social policy | Regional Development | Security and Defence

Summary: This study considers eight economic, societal, and political global trends that will shape the world to 2035, namely an ageing population, fragile globalisation, a technological revolution, climate change, shifting power relations, new areas of state competition, politics of the information age and ecological threats. It first examines how they may affect some of the fundamental assumptions of the international system. Then it considers four scenarios based on two factors: an unstable or stable Europe and world. Finally, it presents policy options for the EU to address the challenges created by these trends.

Study EN

'Global Trends to 2035' Geo-politics and international power

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-09-2017

Author: Leopold SCHMERTZING

Policy area: Social Policy | Regional Development | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword: third country | automation | developing countries | social media | multilateral relations | environmental policy | refugee | conflict prevention | international relations | natural disaster | Internet | information highway | strategic defence | adaptation to climate change | geopolitics

Summary: This study considers eight economic, societal, and political global trends that will shape the world to 2035, namely an ageing population, fragile globalisation, a technological revolution, climate change, shifting power relations, new areas of state competition, politics of the information age and ecological threats. It first examines how they may affect some of the fundamental assumptions of the international system. Then it considers four scenarios based on two factors: an unstable or stable Europe and world. Finally, it presents policy options for the EU to address the challenges created by these trends.

Study EN

Publication type: Study  
Date: 09-12-2013

External author: Kateryna Pishchikova (associate researcher and team leader - Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior - FRIDE, Spain)

Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Human Rights

Keyword: public opinion | honour | the EU's international role | historical account | contemporary history | diplomatic relations | European Parliament | civil society | freedom of opinion | human rights

Summary: The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought stands out among other initiatives as the best-known and most widely appreciated instrument of the European Parliament in the field of human rights. In some countries, it is as well-known as the Nobel Prize. Over its 25-year history, it has come to be associated with the European Union’s principled commitment to freedom of thought. However, empirical research on the personal and political circumstances of Sakharov Prize laureates, as well as on the political impact of the prize in five case studies – China, Cuba, Israel and Palestine, and Russia – shows that its potential remains under-utilised.

Drawing on unique perspectives from the laureates themselves, this report offers suggestions to enhance its impact, including: the prize must be targeted more tightly at contexts where it could have tangible impact; it must be dovetailed with other policy instruments; it must guard more carefully against unintended effects; and it must serve as a platform for broader international linkages in the defence of human rights. On the occasion of its quarter-century anniversary, the European Parliament must reflect on how the prize can continue to be relevant in a world whose contours and predicaments look vastly different from those that prevailed at its inception.

Study EN

Research for AGRI Committee – New competition rules for the agri-food chain in the CAP post 2020

Publication type: Study  
Date: 14-09-2018

External author: C. Del Cont; A. Iannarelli

Policy area: Competition law and regulation | Agriculture and Rural Development | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword: single market | regulation (EU) | common organisation of markets | agricultural product | competition (EU) | reform of the CAP | agricultural production | international trade | agri-foodstuffs

Summary: In connection with the next reform of the CAP post 2020, the Commission has proposed a new Regulation (COM(2018)394 of 1 June 2018) on the common market organisation, amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of 13 December 2013 (amended by Regulation (EU) No 2017/2393 of 13 December 2017). This draft regulation does not, however, cover questions on the relationship between the CAP and competition; the proposal does not contain any provisions concerning the responsibilities of professional and interbranch organisations and the possible conditions of their submission to competition rules. The recent Omnibus Regulation (EU) No 2017/2393 has made changes to the legal framework for the application of competition rules to the agreements and practices of farmers and their associations. However, this new legislative framework is not yet entirely consistent and, in the light of the Court of Justice judgment handed down on 14 November 2017 in the Endive case, the progress ought to be consolidated and clarified in order to guarantee the real effectiveness of these provisions and greater legal certainty for operators.

This study analyses the development of the relationship between the CAP and the competition rules and highlights the need to take corrective action with respect to current farming legislation to ensure that the CAP has primacy over the competition rules and the implementation of the objectives set out in Article 39 of the Treaty.

Study EN, FR

Executive summary

Measures to promote the situation of Roma EU citizens in the European Union - Country reports

Publication type: Study  
Date: 03-02-2011

External author: Todor Todorov (for Bulgaria study case), Laura Cashman (for Czech Republic study case), Christophe Robert (for France study case), Gregor Grienig (for Germany study case), Dimitris Papadimitriou, Argiris Mamarelis and Georgios Niarchos (for Greece study case), Erzsebet Vajdovich-Visy (for Hungary study case), Roberta Benini (for Italy study case), Peter Vermeersch (for Poland study case), Sorin Cace, Florin Misa, Daniela Tarnovschi and Ovidiu Voicu (for Roumania study case), Kyriaki Topidi (for Slovakia study case), Joan Costa-i-Font (for Spain study case), Sarah Cemlyn and Andrew Ryder (for UK study case)

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Social Policy

Keyword: education policy | ethnic discrimination | employment policy | rights of minorities | EU Member State | Roma | health policy | European Social Fund | housing policy | social integration | socioeconomic conditions

Summary: This document is related to the study "Measures to promote the situation of Roma EU citizens in the European Union - Country reports" (see: PE 432 747).

Study EN
EU Social and Labour Rights and EU Internal Market Law

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 18-01-2016
Keyword: single market | collective bargaining | labour law | equal treatment | labour mobility | working conditions | job security | free movement of workers | social security
Summary: The study on EU Social and Labour rights and EU Internal Market Law, prepared by Policy Department A for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, assesses the tensions between EU social and labour rights and EU Internal Market law and explores responses by socio-economic and political actors at national and EU level to these tensions. This leaflet presents the key findings of the study.

Poverty in the European Union: The crisis and its aftermath

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 16-03-2016
Author: Marie LECERF
Policy area: Social Policy
Keyword: social impact | poverty | European social policy | economic recession | EU situation | EU growth strategy | marginalisation | EU financing | working poor | homelessness
Summary: In 2010, as part of the Europe 2020 strategy, Member States agreed on a target to have at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020, thus reducing poverty from 116.4 million people to 96.4 million over the decade. Unfortunately, since the Strategy was adopted, the European Union has moved away from this target: there are now 6.7 million more people living in poverty or social exclusion across Europe compared to 2008 (EU-27). In 2012, almost one quarter of the European population was at risk of poverty, on a ‘wealthy continent’.

Which subgroups of society were the most hit by the ‘Great Recession’? What are the current drivers of poverty in Europe today? And what political actions are undertaken to fight against this new 21st century social scourge?

Through a statistical analysis of the most recent trends in poverty in the European Union, this paper analyses the consequences of the crisis on the level and the nature of poverty in Europe and describes the political actions that are implemented to counter this phenomenon.

In-Depth Analysis: DE, EN, FR

Afghanistan: Challenges and Perspectives until 2020

Publication type: Study
Date: 02-02-2017
External author: Giulia BONACQUISTI (Trans European Policy Studies Association - TEPSA, Belgium) and Victor TANZARELLA HARTMANN (Trans European Policy Studies Association - TEPSA, Belgium) (for the workshop report) ; Mona KANWAL SHEIKH (Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark - for the briefing 1) ; Arne STRAND (U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway - briefing 2) ; Richard GHIASY (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute - SIPRI, Sweden)
Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: peace | international conference | political situation | refugee | common foreign and security policy | corruption | socioeconomic conditions | Afghanistan | development policy | EU relations | public safety | forced migration | NATO | armed forces | economic situation
Summary: The international Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan, held in Brussels on 4-5 October 2016, was a success. High representatives of 75 countries and 26 international organisations renewed their commitment to Afghanistan’s stability and development; they also pledged EUR 13.6 billion to support the unity government until 2020. However the country is going through very difficult times: in 2016 insurgents have committed more attacks, which have caused more victims, and controlled more territory than in 2015. The numbers of internally displaced people and of refugees returning to Afghanistan, particularly from Pakistan, have grown dramatically. The economic situation is bleak and the government has very limited capacities to provide basic services. The country requires continuous international support for economic development, regional economic cooperation and a reconciliation process leading to lasting peace.

Study: EN
Social and Employment Situation in Italy

Publication type Study
Date 14-03-2014
External author Chiara Crepaldi, Flavia Pesce and Manuela Samek Lodovici (IRS, Italy)

Policy area
- Social Policy | Employment

Keyword
- poverty | labour market | structural adjustment | EU Council Presidency | social dialogue | marginalisation | migratory movement | economic reform | social situation | social security | Italy | employment structure | economic recession

Summary Due to its structural weaknesses Italy is one of the EU28 Member States worst hit by the crisis. The segmentation across gender, age, and territory is very marked and job opportunities are unevenly distributed among the labour force, with the marginalization of specific segments of the working population, in particular women and young people, and especially those residing in Southern regions.

Since 2011 several labour market and social protection reforms have been introduced: in 2012 the Italian labour market was reformed (Fornero reform) and the recently formed Renzi Government has announced a new Programme for Labour Reforms (Jobs Act).

The Italian Presidency programme is described in the 2014 Work Programme “Participation of Italy at the European Union”. The document sets out the priority dossiers and areas on which Italy plans to engage at the European level.

Gender Aspects of the Effects of the Economic Downturn and Financial Crisis on Welfare Systems

Publication type Study
Date 15-02-2013
External author Katie McCracken, Matteo Jessoula, Antigone Lyberaki, Will Bartlett and Ewa Kusidel (OpCit Research)

Policy area
- Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword
- poverty | labour market | social-security benefit | sexual discrimination | economic recession | position of women | family policy | female work | gender equality | EU employment policy

Summary This study explores the impact on women of the economic and financial crisis of 2007/8 and 2009/10, in terms of social welfare systems across the EU. It reviews EU level statistics and provides six in depth case studies of EU Member States, which explore the gender impacts of reforms introduced as a result of the crisis.

Youth Guarantee: Lessons from implementation

Publication type Briefing
Date 14-04-2017
Author Susanne KRAATZ

Policy area
- Social Policy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment

Keyword
- labour market | youth unemployment | integration into employment | EU initiative | fight against unemployment | youth employment | EU financing

Summary This note provides an overview of the overall state of implementation of the Youth Guarantee and analyses selected results, such as coverage and the take-up of offers by young people. It discusses issues of service delivery and the quality of offers under Youth Guarantee schemes with a view to stakeholder positions.

The Implementation of the Common European Asylum System

Publication type Study
Date 16-05-2016
External author Martin WAGNER, Paul BAUMGARTNER, Angeliki DIMITRIADI, Rebecca O’DONNELL, Albert KRALER, Jimy PERUMADAN, Jan Hagen SCHLOTZHAUER, Ivana SIMIC and Dersim YABASUN

Policy area
- Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Human Rights

Keyword
- political refugee | regulation (EU) | political asylum | internal border of the EU | EU relations | EU migration policy | Turkey | integration of migrants | child protection | family migration | external border of the EU

Summary This study was commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee. It provides an overview of the current implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) from both a legal and practical perspective. Against the background of large inflows of seekers of international protection, the study covers the CEAS instruments as well as the EU policy responses brought forward in 2015 until May 2016.
Syrian crisis: Impact on Lebanon

Publication type Briefing
Date 30-03-2017
Author Beatrix IMMENKAMP
Policy area Foreign Affairs
Keyword European neighbourhood policy | political situation | Syria | Lebanon | EU financing | refugee | foreign policy | aid to refugees | economic consequence | access to education | crisis management | forced migration | financial aid | economic situation

Summary The crisis in Syria has had a significant impact on neighbouring countries over the past six years. Five million Syrians have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, putting host countries and communities under great pressure. Moreover, violence has spilled over into some neighbouring countries, including Lebanon. The impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon has been immense. Since the outbreak of the crisis in 2011, up to 1.5 million displaced persons are believed to have crossed the border into Lebanon, formerly home to around 4.5 million people. The population has grown by an unprecedented 30 % in under four years, making Lebanon the country with the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. The situation in neighbouring Syria has exacerbated Lebanon's political instability, and led to political deadlock for the past three years. This, in turn, has made it impossible to tackle some urgent challenges arising from the refugee presence, and from underlying structural problems with the delivery of basic services to the Lebanese population. Moreover, there are concerns, particularly among Christians, Shias and Druze, that a large number of Syrian Sunni Muslims could upset the delicate sectarian balance in Lebanon's multi-confessional political system. In light of Lebanon's experience with up to 280 000 Palestine refugees, its population is united in its opposition to a lasting refugee presence in the country. The Lebanese government insists that the presence of refugees from Syria is 'temporary', despite the absence of reasonable prospects for their safe return to their homeland in the foreseeable future. The international community has stepped in to help countries in the region cope with the influx of large numbers of vulnerable people. Emphasis has shifted from traditional humanitarian aid to 'resilience building'. This implies creating the long-term conditions that will allow Syrians to build a future for themselves and their children in the region, including acquiring the skills and tools to re-build their own country once they are able to return. The EU is co-hosting an international conference on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region' on 5 April 2017, which will assess where the international community stands collectively in helping the region cope with the crisis.

The state of implementation of the associations and free trade agreements with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova with a particular focus on Ukraine and systematic analysis of key sectors

Publication type Study
Date 16-11-2017
External author Iulian GROZA; Balazs JARABIK (coordinator); Jana KOBZOVA; Dr. Viktor KONSTANTYNOV; Tsovinar KUIUMCHIAN; Leonid LITRA; Tornike SHARASHENIDZE; Isaac WEBB
Policy area Foreign Affairs
Keyword decentralisation | free-trade area | macro-financial assistance | Ukraine | corruption | political reform | Eastern Partnership | energy policy | Georgia | Russia | Moldova | trade agreement (EU) | democratisation | association agreement (EU)

Summary Signing and ratifying Association Agreements with Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine has proven to be an impressive affirmation of Brussels' soft power. The EU's overtures have persuaded elites and mobilised societies despite the fact that the Agreements come neither with a membership promise nor with the kind of financial assistance that has been given to the EU’s new member states. EU assistance has been effective in restoring macro-financial stability in all three countries. While costs of compliance with the DCFTA were calculated, level of investment associated with the necessary modernisation to make these economies competitive were neglected. The discrepancy between costs and benefits should prompt the EU to be more flexible. Brussels' achievements remain fragile. Informal interests continue to play important roles in these countries and have the potential to thwart reforms. In the absence of strong, de-politicised institutions, the EU should work to support political consolidation—the alternative is further polarisation and political fragility—while at the same time insisting on adherence to democratic standards and strengthened institutional checks and balances.
Pakistan ahead of the 2018 elections

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 17-07-2018
Author: Enrico D'AMBROGIO
Policy area: Democracy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: Pakistan | third country | national election | generalised preferences | organisation of elections | multilateral relations
Summary: Pakistan will hold general elections on 25 July 2018. This event deserves attention for several reasons. With around 200 million inhabitants, Pakistan has the sixth-largest population in the world. One of the world's nine nuclear powers, it is the only Muslim country among them. It is strategically located between India, China, Afghanistan and Iran. It plays a major role with regard to Afghanistan's stability and the fight against terrorism, for which it has often been accused of conniving with militant groups. Finally, it is home to the world's second-largest Muslim population. The election is set to secure the second consecutive democratic transition of power in a country marked by chronic dualism between political and military power. The event is particularly important, given the current political turmoil following the removal of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from office. Pakistan is accused of giving support to terrorist groups. However, after the Taliban massacred 132 children at an army-run school in 2014, the authorities adopted a number of provisions to curtailing terrorism. Nevertheless, the US administration, which considers Pakistan one of its key allies in the Afghan war, is unsatisfied with its record of fighting terrorism. The resultant US freeze on military aid to Islamabad may force the latter to switch allegiance to China and Russia, which could jeopardise Washington's efforts in Afghanistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) of infrastructure projects is an example of the already flourishing relations with Beijing. An EU election observation mission is monitoring the electoral process. Since 2014, Pakistan has benefited from the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which has boosted the country's exports to the EU. A new EU-Pakistan strategic engagement plan is to be signed in 2018. The European Parliament has expressed concern over the country's human rights situation on several occasions, with special reference to the persecution of religious minorities.

Briefing EN

Global Trendometer: Essays on medium- and long-term global trends - Summer 2017

Publication type: Study
Date: 06-09-2017
Author: Anne ALTMEYER | Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI | Daniele RECHARD | Agnieszka WIDUTO | Jessica Freya WINDLE-WEHRLE | EAMONN NOONAN
Keyword: demography | water management | sub-Saharan Africa | construction equipment | middle class |multilateral relations | protectionism | raw material | economic analysis | China | redistribution of income | equal treatment | international trade | tax system
Summary: With the publication of the "Global Trendometer" the EPRS Global Trends Unit seeks to contribute to the process of identifying and addressing medium- and long-term trends, and their possible implications for the European Union. In this latest edition, three essays and seven two-page vignettes on different geopolitical, economic, technological and social issues paint a broad-ranging picture of some developments that may shape Europe's future.

Study EN

International Criminal Court: Achievements and challenges 20 years after the adoption of the Rome Statute

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 13-07-2018
Author: Ionel ZAMFIR
Policy area: Global Governance | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: crime against humanity | International Criminal Court | UN Conference | war crime | international law
Summary: Adopted on 17 July 1998, the Statute of Rome is the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court, which was set up to deal with the most serious crimes of international concern, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Its establishment has inspired much hope that the most horrendous crimes will no longer go unpunished and that its deterrent effect will significantly reduce their occurrence. The EU has been a strong supporter of the ICC system from the outset. Since it began operating in 2003, the Court has conducted investigations and trials in connection with some of the world's most brutal conflicts and has not shied away from investigating individuals at the highest level of power, such as presidents in office. It has developed extensive tools to protect its most important asset – the witnesses, who in many cases have faced intimidation, violence and even death. However the Court has also encountered difficulties and inherent limitations. The atrocities committed by groups such as ISIL/Da'esh have been out of reach for the Court's jurisdiction, which is limited to states parties' territories and their nationals, unless the Security Council specifically asks it to investigate. The refusal by some major powers such as the US, China and Russia to join, the lack of cooperation by some states parties such as South Africa, as well as recent defections or the threat thereof have also put strains on its global authority. The Court's effectiveness cannot be judged solely on the convictions it passes. The ICC is a court of last resort, and its impact on national judicial systems has also been significant. The Rome Statute itself has evolved. At the end of last year, the jurisdiction of the Court was extended to cover the crime of international aggression and new war crimes taking into account the latest technological developments. This briefing updates a previous briefing on the International Criminal Court, from May 2017.

Briefing EN
Discrimination of Migrant Workers at the Workplace

Publication type Study
Date 15-04-2014

External authorJacque MALLENDER (Matrix), Mirja GUTHEIL (Matrix), Aurélie HEETMAN (Matrix), Daniel GRIFFITHS (Matrix), Malin CARLBERG (Matrix) and Rachel MARANGOZOV (Institute for Employment Studies)

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Employment

Keyword recruitment | worker (EU) | equal treatment | economic recession | job access | working conditions | EU law | free movement of workers | migrant worker | dismissal | migrant unemployment | discrimination on the basis of nationality

Summary Non-discrimination is a prerequisite in order to effectively guarantee the right of free movement of workers. Although EU legislation is in place, statistics indicate that migrant workers (EU nationals and non-EU nationals) are being discriminated against in the EU labour market. This note, produced at the request of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, discusses the legal framework protecting migrant workers against discrimination. It presents a summary of the impact of the economic crisis on migrant employment. It takes a closer look at the types of discrimination foreign-born workers may face in the workplace before summarising current opinion as to whether action is warranted to prevent migrant employment discrimination in the EU, and providing some best-practice examples.

Study EN

Gender Equality Policies in Spain - Update

Publication type Study
Date 15-12-2016

External authorEmanuela LOMBARDO (Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain)

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword Spain | labour market | care for the elderly | economic recession | maternity leave | child care | parental leave | gender equality

Summary While gender equality policies have been institutionalized and consolidated in Spain until 2008, the 2009-2016 period shows backlash provoked by austerity policies adopted in response to the economic crisis. Institutional dismantlement, budget cuts, legislative standstill, policy reforms with negative gender impacts, and problems of implementation indicate an uncertain future for gender equality policies in Spain. This study maps developments in Spanish gender equality institutions, laws, and policies, including employment, care, political and economic decision-making, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive rights.

Study EN

Shrinking space for civil society: the EU response

Publication type Study
Date 12-04-2017

External authorRichard YOUNGS (Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe, Belgium and Professor at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom) and Ana ECHAGÜE (independent consultant)

Policy area Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword third country | non-governmental organisation | the EU's international role | development aid | terms for aid | EU financing | democratisation | common foreign and security policy | civil society | political rights | human rights movement

Summary The EU has developed an impressive range of policy tools for pushing back against restrictions on civil society across the world. It has gradually improved the way it deploys these instruments and has helped protect many activists at risk. Notwithstanding this, the EU needs to sharpen its ‘shrinking space’ strategy. This study suggests a range of precise policy changes it should contemplate to this end. It advocates a number of strategic guidelines that could help make the EU’s responses more proactive; better able to tackle the broad structural elements of the shrinking space; fully balanced between political and development approaches; and geared towards building more inclusive alliances against new restrictions on civil society.

Study EN
State of Play of EU-Mauritania Relations
Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 23-02-2017
External author: Morten Baas
Keyword: ethnic group | migration | Mauritania | political situation | EDF | head of State | protocol to an agreement | refugee | human rights | Islamic State | regional security | development policy | Sahel | fishing agreement | terrorism | slavery | Cotonou Agreement | democarisation | Mali | adaptation to climate change | economic situation
Summary: Mauritania, an important ally of the EU in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel, faces several inter-related development challenges: ensuring an efficient use of the revenue derived from natural resources, economic diversification and improved governance. The severity of these development challenges is increased by difficult political relations between the three main ethnic groups in the country, the dominant group being the Arab-Berber Bidhan. They constitute less than one-third of the country's population, but dominate economically and politically. The Haratin, the largest group in the country, is made up of descendants of black Africans enslaved by the Bidhan (fled or still enslaved). The third group in the country is the West Africans or Black Mauritians. Mauritania's post-independence history is marked by repeated attempts by this group to assert its non-Arab identity and claim for a more equitable share of political and economic power. The tension that these divisions create is a problem in itself, but they can also be appropriated by violent Islamist insurgencies in the region. The urgency of this challenge is further complicated by the likelihood of increased climate change effects that the country is currently not adequately prepared for. This study therefore discusses the main political, economic and development challenges that contemporary Mauritania is faced with, illustrating how these challenges can only be properly grasped with consideration to their historical evolution. Based on this, the study investigates the current basis for EU-Mauritania relations and suggests a select number of policy areas for consideration, as this relationship continues to evolve around issues of mutual concern such as security and development.

Application of the Principle of Equal Pay for Men and Women for Equal Work of Equal Value: European Added Value Assessment (+ Annexes I-III)
Publication type: Study
Date: 14-06-2013
Author: Micaela DEL MONTE
Policy area: European Added Value | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: social impact | economic consequence | female worker | approximation of laws | equal treatment | equal pay | income | female work | cost-benefit analysis | EC Directive | gender equality | EU statistics
Summary: Women across the European Union bring home 16.2% less than their male counterparts in the EU. This figure is more than just a statistic: it has real-life consequences for the women concerned, for their families and for society at large. The European Parliament firmly believes that reducing the pay gap remains a political priority. It is not only about economic empowerment, it is also a matter of social justice. This EU Added Value Assessment supports the European Parliament’s view that reducing the gender pay gap, in particular by revising Directive 2006/54/EC, could be very beneficial, not only for individuals but also for society in general. It would help achieve inclusive growth and ensure economic and social cohesion and competitiveness, in line with the objectives set in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-11-2014
External author: IRS-Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale
Keyword: poverty | sexual discrimination | EU policy | the EU's international role | sustainable development | position of women | EU financing | women's rights | gender equality | right to health | access to education | equal treatment | equal pay | international instrument | action programme
Summary: Upon request of the FEMM committee, the study evaluates the Strategy for Equality between women and men 2010-2015 as a contribution towards achieving Beijing Platform for Action goals and provides indications on the future post-2015 multiannual policy framework. The study assesses the extent to which the Strategy was articulate and comprehensive enough to contribute to the BPfA implementation and, more in general, to gender equality at the European and international level, and whether the planned objectives have been effectively met. It also provides practical and specific recommendations on possible improvements for the future Strategy.
Religion and the EU’s external policies: Increasing engagement

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-12-2017
Author: Philippe PERCHOC
Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: third country | freedom of self-determination | religious conflict | EU policy | denominational education | social partners | religious institution | globalisation | human rights
Summary: Since 11 September 2001, the European Union has been increasingly confronted by religious crises in a world in which globalisation is reshaping religious demography. In parallel with similar developments in the Member States and the United States, the EU has developed instruments to give greater consideration to religious trends when addressing human rights concerns and engaging key partner countries. Faith-based organisations are playing a pivotal role in a number of new fields, including climate change, development, and conflict resolution, and the EU is taking them increasingly into account. In addition, religion plays an important role in the internal and external policies of some key EU partners, as this study shows in annexes. That is why this field is slowly emerging as a new dimension in the EU’s external policies. The annexes in this paper, concerning individual countries, were drafted by Naja Bentzen, Gisela Grieger, Beatrix Immenkamp, Elena Lazarou, Velina Lilyanova, Martin Russell, Alexandra Friede and Jessica Park.

Large Carnivore Management Plans of Protection: Best Practices in EU Member States

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2018
External author: Alberto FERNÁNDEZ-GIL, Duarte CADETE DA ROCHA PEREIRA, Sara Maria DIAS FERREIRA PINTO, Ilaria DI SILVESTRE
Policy area: Environment | Petitions to the European Parliament
Keyword: wolf | bear | lynx | statistics | protected species | protected area | EU Member State | distribution of EU funding | hunting regulations | EU programme | protection of animals
Summary: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the PETI Committee. This paper analyses the legal framework on large carnivores – brown bear (Ursus arctos), Eurasian lynx (Lynx lynx), wolf (Canis lupus), wolverine (Gulo gulo) - and their current management within the EU are presented. Additionally, the best coexistence methods obtained from research and EU-funded projects are compiled. A thorough analysis of the conditions for derogations under the Habitats Directive is followed by the implications of the current management. A general review and recommendations are made.

Evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies

Publication type: Study
Date: 22-12-2015
External author: London School of Economics
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: poverty | Romania | France | EU financing | social integration | Italy | Spain | Hungary | project evaluation | European social policy | economic and social cohesion | equal treatment | anti-discriminatory measure | Roma | Slovakia | Bulgaria | European citizenship
Summary: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee. It evaluates the implementation, impact and outcomes of National Roma Integration Strategies in a selection of Member States (Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain) in the broader context of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. It concludes that these strategies suffer from severe implementation gaps and that Roma populations continue to live in significant socio-economic deprivation, suffer extensive discrimination and high levels of anti-Gypsyism. The study puts forward practical policy recommendations for enhanced implementation of Roma integration strategies in Member States, and for improved policies at the EU level that could support a more effective integration of disadvantaged Roma EU citizens.

Coordination of Social Security Systems in Europe

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-12-2017
Author: Marion SCHMID-DRÜNER
Policy area: Social Policy | Transposition and Implementation of Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Keyword: social-security contribution | social-security benefit | equal treatment | EU Member State | labour mobility | social security legislation | social-security harmonisation | EU law | discrimination on the basis of nationality
Summary: The leaflet provides a quick overview on the changes proposed by the Commission, as compared to current rules, as well as their assessment. It is based on main points of the presentation of the study on “Coordination of social security system in Europe” to the EMPL Committee on 4 December 2017. This leaflet has been prepared by the European Parliament’s Policy Department A on Economic and Scientific Policy (covering the ECON-ENVI-EMPL-IMCO-ITRE Committees).
**Migrants in the Mediterranean: Protecting Human Rights**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 29-10-2015  
**External author** Samuel COGOLATI; Nele VERLINDEN and Pierre SCHMITT, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Institute for International Law, KU Leuven, Belgium.

**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Human Rights

**Keyword** third country | statistics | EU military mission | EU Member State | rights of aliens | area of freedom, security and justice | migrant | migratory movement | refugee | external border of the EU | human rights | Mediterranean Sea | maritime surveillance | international cooperation | EU migration policy | International Organisation for Migration | international convention | Schengen Agreement | UNHCR | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | illegal migration | Frontex | European Asylum Support Office

**Summary** In reaction to recurrent tragedies in the Mediterranean Sea, the European Union (EU) has adopted a series of measures seeking to improve the protection of migrants trying to reach the borders of the EU by sea and to share responsibility among countries involved by increasing cooperation with transit countries. This study focuses on the existing and planned EU policies and actions to protect the human rights of migrants before entering the EU by sea or after they have left the territory of the EU. The picture that emerges from the evaluation of EU policies and actions is a mixed one. On the one hand, it cannot be denied that instruments of sea borders surveillance and instruments of cooperation with third countries have now generally included human rights safeguards. On the other hand, implementation, monitoring and control remain problematic. Furthermore, the primary aim of existing EU policies and actions still seems to be the protection of the external borders against so-called ‘illegal’ immigration and the return of illegally staying migrants, rather than the development of effective strategies to protect human rights of migrants and the saving of lives on the Mediterranean. The study therefore offers specific recommendations to ensure a coherent human rights-based EU approach to improve the protection of the rights of migrants aiming to reach the EU.

**Study** DE, EN, FR

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**Obstacles to the Right of Free Movement and Residence for EU Citizens and their Families: Comparative Analysis**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-09-2016  
**External author** Marta BALLESTEROS, Gillian KELLY, Nathalie MEURENS and Anna PEREGO

**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Petitions to the European Parliament

**Keyword** visa policy | family | comparative analysis | freedom of movement | European citizenship | residence permit | foreign national | discrimination on the basis of nationality | national implementing measure

**Summary** This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE and PETI Committees, presents a synthesis of in-depth studies in nine Member States in addition to broader EU and national research. Based on an analysis of selected provisions of Directive 2004/38/EC in Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK, it identifies the main persisting barriers to free movement for EU citizens and their family members. The study also examines discriminatory restrictions to free movement, measures to counter abuse of rights and refusals of entry and residence rights, in addition to expulsions. It finds that, ten years after the deadline for transposition, there is general compliance, though some challenges remain. More systematic data collection, evaluation and guidance is thus required. The nine country studies are made available separately.

**Study** EN

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**The EU-Latin American Strategic Partnership: state of play and ways forward**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 30-08-2017  
**External author** Gustavo G. MÜLLER (Senior Researcher, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, University of Leuven, Belgium); Jan WOUTERS (Professor and Director, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, University of Leuven, Belgium); Jean-Christophe DEGRAINE (Professor, Institute for European Studies, University Saint-Louis Brussels, Belgium); Sebastian SANTANDER (Professor, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Liege, Belgium); Kolja RAUBE (Senior Researcher, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, University of Leuven, Belgium)

**Policy area** International Trade | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs

**Keyword** common commercial policy | political situation | India | Japan | economic integration | foreign policy | social situation | China | Latin America | human rights | EU relations | South Korea | Latin American organisation | interparliamentary relations | Caribbean Islands | trade policy | geopolitics | economic situation

**Summary** By looking at the current social, economic and political trends in Latin America and the Caribbean and at recent developments in the EU’s relation with the region, this study explores windows of opportunity for advancing the EU-Latin American strategic partnership. It is argued that, although asymmetries between Europe and Latin America might impact and diminish the bi-regional relationship, the EU is well-positioned to play a more active role in Latin America by strengthening existing institutional links, such as the strategic bi-regional partnership between the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Euro-Latin America Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat). The study concludes with tailor-made recommendations in order to advance the EU’s engagement and cooperation with individual Latin American countries and with the region as a whole, both through traditional cooperative channels and through closer parliamentary links within the framework of EuroLat.

**Study** ES, EN
Acquisition and loss of citizenship in EU Member States: Key trends and issues

Publication type Briefing
Date 09-07-2018
Author Costica DUMBRAVA | Maria-Margarita MENTZELOPOULOU
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword competence of the Member States | EU Member State | naturalisation | case law (EU) | refugee | residence permit | children's rights | visa policy | stateless person | freedom of movement | integration of migrants | terrorism | Schengen Agreement | European citizenship | foreign national
Summary Access to citizenship status is an important prerequisite for enjoying rights and privileges, such as migration and political rights, as well as for developing a sense of identity and belonging. Since the establishment of Union citizenship, all persons who are nationals or citizens of an EU Member State enjoy the status of EU citizenship, which confers on them a number of additional rights and privileges. However, Member States retain full control over who can be recognised as a citizen. Although the legal rules on the acquisition and loss of citizenship in the EU Member States remain fairly divergent, one can identify a number of key trends and issues. The need to integrate long-term immigrants has pushed EU countries to amend their citizenship laws. This often resulted in making citizenship both more liberal (lowering residence requirements and tolerating dual citizenship) and more restrictive (introducing integration clauses and citizenship tests). The surge in terrorist activities in the EU, which involve citizens, prompted several Member States to revise or reactivate citizenship provisions allowing for citizenship to be revoked. Concerns about immigrants' integration, allegiance and belonging, as well as about the cultural and economic consequences of regional integration and globalisation are at the heart of recent debates about citizenship in Europe. As the Maltese case of investor citizenship shows, the issue of access to citizenship is no longer a matter that concerns Member States alone. The bundling of national and EU citizenship means that Member States have a certain responsibility towards each other when taking decisions over who to accept (or reject) as citizens.

Gender Equal Access to Goods and Services Directive 2004/113/EC

Publication type Study
Date 24-01-2017
Author Helmut WERNER
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection
Keyword sexual discrimination | approximation of laws | equal treatment | service industry | provision of services | gender equality
Summary Directive 2004/113/EC is part of EU anti-discrimination law and sets minimum rules for ensuring gender equality in access to and supply of goods and services. Its implementation across EU Member States is critically assessed in this study. It concludes that the notion of 'indirect discrimination' requires increased attention, for example in the health sector or in relation to the rapidly developing collaborative economy.

Multiple cause-effect relationships require that gender equality in accessing goods and services is pursued by the application of this directive in synergy with other gender equality, anti-discrimination, accessibility and consumer protection law.

This European implementation assessment is intended to support the implementation report being prepared on the subject by the European Parliament’s Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

Study DE, EN, FR
The inclusion of financial services in EU free trade and association agreements: Effects on money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance

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<th>Publication type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>21-06-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Isabelle IOANNIDES</td>
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External author: Ex-Post Impact Assessment Study on the impact of financial services in EU Free Trade and Association Agreements on money laundering, tax evasion and elusion, written by Dr Wybe Th. Douma, Onur Güven LL.M., Dr Davor Jancic, Dr Luca Pantaleo, Steffen van der Welde LL.M. (T.M.C. Asser Instituut) and Prof. Dr Olha O. Cherednychenko and Prof. Dr Heinrich B. Winter (Groningen Centre for European Financial Services Law (GCEFSL), University of Groningen), with Prof. Dr Femke de Vries (The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets) acting as an advisor.


Keyword: common commercial policy | Serbia | free-trade agreement | tax evasion | financial services | Colombia | impact study | Mexico | money laundering | South Korea | capital transfer | trade agreement (EU) | Peru | association agreement (EU) | tax avoidance | South Africa

Summary: This study examines the implementation and effects of the inclusion of financial services in existing EU free trade and association agreements (FTAs) and, in particular, their impact on money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance. The opening analysis outlines the geopolitical and trade context, as well as the EU policy framework to combat money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance. It examines the effects of the ‘Panama Papers’ leaks; assesses the consequences of tax evasion and money laundering and their link to trade in Africa; evaluates the implementation of the EU-Central America Agreement; and provides a synthesis of the key findings and policy recommendations presented in the annexed study. The annexed expertise investigates the implementation and effects of financial services provisions in selected EU FTAs with third countries, with a particular focus on their propensity to curb money laundering, tax evasion and elusion. It concludes that the liberalisation of trade in goods and services with developing countries increases the threat of money laundering, and that it is therefore likely to contribute to an increase in illicit financial flows from developing countries to the EU. The study does not find conclusive statistical data to support a causal link between the EU FTAs that are in force and an increase in illicit financial flows. Nonetheless, the far-reaching commitments made by the EU and the developing countries in the selected EU FTAs regarding access to the markets for goods and services, including in the financial services sector, translate into such agreements significantly increasing trade openness, and hence also the threat of money laundering facing developing countries. To remedy these threats, the study provides a number of policy recommendations.

Portugal: Social Situation and Employment in a Post-Programme Country

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<th>Publication type</th>
<th>In-Depth Analysis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>15-10-2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>External author</td>
<td>Vítor ESCÁRIA</td>
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Keyword: poverty | emigration | structural adjustment | national statistics | labour market | youth unemployment | Portugal | social indicator | fight against unemployment | social dialogue | social situation

Summary: This document, provided by the Policy Department A to the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, gives an overview of the social situation and employment in Portugal after the implementation of the economic adjustment programme. It analyses the implementation of the programme and also the developments regarding employment and poverty. It discusses the measures adopted to combat unemployment, focusing on those designed to combat youth unemployment. Finally, it discusses current important issues regarding employment and social affairs including the recent national elections.

The Role of Minimum Income for Social Inclusion in the EU 2007-2010

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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>31-01-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>External author</td>
<td>Chiara Crepaldi (coordinator), Claudio Castegnaro and Sandra Naaf (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale - IRS, Milano, Italy - with contribution of Daniela Mesini)</td>
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Policy area: Social Policy | Employment

Keyword: poverty | European social policy | minimum pay | social inequality | subsistence level income | standard of living | working poor | social integration

Summary: In most EU countries some form of “minimum income” as a measure of “last resort” exists, which ensures a minimum standard of living for individuals and families who do not have sufficient resources. However, such schemes differ enormously as regards coverage and adequacy, as well as efficacy in reducing poverty and social exclusion. The present report moves from a previous study commissioned by the European Parliament in 2007 to consider the evolution that has occurred in the meanwhile.
Exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 03-06-2016
Author: Milan REMAC

Policy area: Employment
Keyword: labour law | occupational mortality | occupational disease | carcinogenic substance | application of EU law | toxic substance | disease prevention | occupational health | proposal (EU)

Summary: Despite wide-ranging European legislation, not all substances that can increase the risk of occupational cancers are necessarily covered by existing pieces of legislation. Various studies point to a continuous increase in cancers attributable to working conditions and to a need to improve the protection of workers. Although Directive 2007/34 is the main legislative act setting the standards for the protection of workers against work-related cancers, several studies and stakeholders have called for the scope of the directive to be broadened by adding chemical substances that were not originally covered by the directive, thus decreasing workers’ exposure to them. Similarly, Parliament has on numerous occasions asked the Commission to amend the existing legislation on the prevention of work-related cancers and to increase workers’ protection against occupational diseases, including cancer. Although the May 2016 Commission proposal intends to increase the protection of workers by broadening the scope of Directive 2007/34 by setting exposure limit values for 13 additional chemical substances, there are still various substances that are not included on the list and that can potentially have an adverse impact on the health of workers. The European Commission has promised to conduct a further impact assessment for the additional 12 chemical substances by the end of 2016. These subsequent actions may lead to future legislative proposals updating the existing legislation.

The Lisbon Strategy 2000 – 2010 An analysis and evaluation of the methods used and results achieved

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-07-2010

External author: Study directed by Ricardo Rodriguez (LABOUR ASOCIADOS) ; John Warmerdam (ITSNijmegen) and Claude Emmanuel Tromphne (ASTREES) ; National case-studies Janos Gács (Hungary), Anna Kwiatiewicz (Poland), Christine Erhel (France), Eckhard Voss and Havess (Germany), Javier Calvo (Spain) and Richard Pond (United Kingdom).

Policy area: Social Policy | Employment
Keyword: social policy | employment policy | common strategy

Summary: The study provides an overview of the development, implementation and results of the Lisbon Strategy in the field of employment and social policies. Strengths and weaknesses, as well as instruments and methods used, are analysed. Six case-studies illustrate examples of strategy implementation at national level. The report provided analytical background documentation to accompany discussions on the post-2010 strategic agenda for the European Union and its implementation. Research findings were presented at European Parliament’s Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in autumn 2009.

Women Living Alone - An Update

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2012

External author: Project Direction : Manuela Samek Lodovici (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale - IRS, Italy) and Renata Semenza (University of Milano, Italy)
Research team : Eugenia De Rosa (IRS), Marco Fregoni (IRS), Sandra Naaf (IRS), Monica Patrizio (IRS), Flavia Pesce (IRS) and Sara Pinoli (IRS)

Policy area: Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: poverty | pension scheme | labour market | social well-being | population ageing | economic recession | woman | living conditions | social integration

Summary: The current economic downturn and financial and budgetary crisis impacts the situation of women on the labour market and their living conditions. It is interesting to see the particularities of the situation of single women older women living alone and without dependants, relative to the rest of the population and to single and elderly men and women not living alone. Besides the usual labour market indicators, indicators on the quality of employment, sources of income and living conditions should be considered. The following analysis covers all the 27 EU Member States (according to data availability). It is also important to analyse the policy changes implied by the crisis: changes in pension systems, labour market and active ageing policies and assistance policies. In this document, the qualitative analysis of the main policy reforms introduced in recent years focuses on six countries selected as representative of European welfare systems: Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, Romania. The main aspects of the policy reforms identified, their functioning in the frame of the more general national welfare systems and their expected impact in the gender perspective are described with special attention given to expected impacts on women living alone without dependants and elderly women living alone. In the selected countries some good practices can be identified to alleviate (directly or indirectly) the potential negative effects of welfare and labour market reforms on the conditions of women living alone and, especially, on older women living alone. These good practices are used as evidence to draw upon for policy recommendations.

Executive summary: DE, FR

07-02-2020 Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
Research for PECH Committee - Fisheries in Mauritania and the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-03-2018
Author: Carmen-Paz MARTI DOMINGUEZ

Policy area: Fisheries
Keyword: fishing rights | ship's flag | Mauritania | territorial waters | catch by species | EU Member State | bilateral relations | sea fishing | fishing vessel | conservation of fish stocks | fishing agreement | sustainable fisheries | sea fish

Summary: This information note on the fisheries sector in Mauritania was prepared for the delegation of the PECH Committee which will be carrying out a visit from 2 to 6 April 2018. This note provides a description of the fisheries in Mauritania’s maritime areas and an analysis of the fisheries agreement with the European Union.

Study: ES, EN, FR

The Policy on Gender Equality in Germany

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-04-2015
External author: Elisabeth Botsch

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: sexual violence | domestic violence | prostitution | trafficking in human beings | family policy | parental leave | non-standard employment | female work | gender equality | regional law | Germany | reproductive health | national law | equal treatment | equal pay | participation of women | child care | decision-making | abortion

Summary: Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this note provides an overview of the gender-equality legislation and policies in Germany, focussing on their recent developments and achievements. It reviews gender equality in decision-making, in employment, reconciliation of private and professional life, strategies to combat violence against women and sexual and reproductive health rights. Germany has achieved some progress in gender equality, mainly in the area of employment. European legislation has acted as the main driver for legal improvements in equal treatment and anti-discrimination.

In-Depth Analysis: DE, EN

Research for CULT Committee - Minority Languages and Education: Best Practices and Pitfalls

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2017
External author: Rixt VAN DONGERA, Drs. Cor VAN DER MEER and Richt STERK

Policy area: Culture
Keyword: education policy | Unesco | European charter | language skills | EU Member State | cultural heritage | regional language | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | language policy | minority language

Summary: This report delivers an in-depth comparative analysis of thirteen language case studies in order to gain insight into the situation of minority languages in education in Europe. Indications for best practices are described and challenges that minority languages face in education are highlighted. Specific attention is directed to vocational education and career perspectives. Lastly, this report gives recommendations how the EU can support minority languages in education.

Study: EN

Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Social security cover in other EU Member States

Publication type: EU Fact Sheets
Date: 01-02-2018
Author: AOIFE KENNEDY

Policy area: Social Policy
Summary: The coordination of social security facilitates the free movement of people within the EU. A fundamental reform of legislation in this area was carried out in 2010 and was supplemented by further legal acts improving the protection of mobile workers' rights. In 2016, the Commission included proposals in the Labour Mobility Package to further reform the system and adapt it to modern economic and social realities in the EU.

EU Fact Sheets: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV
**Social and Working Conditions of Road Transport Hauliers**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-04-2013  
**External author** TRT Trasporti e Territorio Srl - Alessio Sitran, Enrico Pastori  
**Policy area** Transport | Employment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts  
**Keyword** carriage of goods | pay | working time | social dumping | transport company | international road transport | working conditions | work contract | socioeconomic conditions | driving period | drivers  
**Summary** The study provides an analysis of the social and working conditions of professional drivers engaged in the road freight transport sector. It concentrates on the fundamental social issues that arise in this transport segment, including driving times and rest periods as well as practical aspects that impact directly on the quality of life of drivers, e.g., employment schemes and income levels. After an overall analysis of the legal framework, which includes the EU legislation relevant for the social dimension of road freight transport, the findings of a stakeholder and driver consultation are reported.

**Study** DE, EN, FR

**Executive summary** BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

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**The Policy on Gender Equality in Italy**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 14-03-2014  
**External author** Annalisa Rosselli (Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy)  
**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity  
**Keyword** sexual discrimination | female unemployment | sexual violence | position of women | public health | family policy | female work | welfare | gender equality | Italy | national law | participation of women | child care | women's movement | decision-making  
**Summary** Upon request of the FEMM committee, this note provides an overview of the existing gender-equality legislation and policies in Italy, focussing on their recent developments and achievements in the last decades. It discusses gender equality in employment, reconciliation of work and family life, presence of women in decision-making positions, recent measures to fight violence against women, and health and reproductive rights. Italy is still far from reaching satisfactory results, in spite of relevant progress under the pressure of women’s movement, civil society and European legislation.

**Study** EN, IT

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**Gender Aspects of the Economic Downturn and Financial Crisis**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-09-2011  
**External author** Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy) and Antigone Lyberaki (Panteion University, Greece)  
**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Economics and Monetary Issues  
**Keyword** labour market | sexual discrimination | anti-discriminatory measure | economic recession | position of women | female work | gender equality | EU employment policy  
**Summary** Past economic crises affected male-dominated sectors more and so reduced gender imbalances. Aggregate data to end-2010 shows similar findings for 2007-2010. However, the current crisis is deeper and longer, while, budget issues which dominate after 2010 could alter the magnitude and even the direction of gender effects. Should complacency take hold, or, should policy be blind to gender implications, there could be a real risk of progress achieved since 2010 being rolled back, as gender stereotypes reassert themselves.

**Study** EN

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**Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty – Improving Functioning of the EU: Economic and Monetary Policy**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 16-06-2016  
**External author** René REPASI (European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance - EURO-CEFG, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands)  
**Policy area** EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Forward Planning | European Semester | Economics and Monetary Issues  
**Keyword** economic governance (EU) | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making | coordination of EMU policies | budget policy | enhanced cooperation | EU budget | Eurogroup (euro area) | legal basis | European Stability Mechanism | deepening of the European Union | Treaty of Lisbon  
**Summary** The Treaty chapter on Economic and Monetary Union became after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty one of the most disputed chapters of the Treaties. The economic and financial crisis revealed the shortcomings of the asymmetric EMU. The present study assesses the unused potential of the existing Treaty chapter in order to improve the functioning of the EU. In order to do so, the study suggests to switch the perspective on the Treaty potential from comparing ‘what could’ to compliance. By identifying the lack of mechanisms in the existing economic policy coordination framework aiming at addressing non-compliance because of a Member State's incapacity to comply, the study suggests the introduction of an incentive-based enforcement mechanism (for the short term) and of a fiscal capacity (for the medium term) within the existing Treaties. Furthermore, the establishment of the Eurozone budget, of a Redemption Fund or the adoption of a convergence code is discussed. By the same token, the legal inclusion of the Fiscal Compact and the ESM-Treaty is examined and concrete proposals are developed. Finally, the study addresses ways of increasing the accountability and legitimacy in EMU affairs.

**Study** EN
International Marriage Brokers and Mail Order Brides - Analysing the Need for Regulation

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-10-2016
External author: Julia REINOLD (Maastricht Graduate School of Governance | UNU-MERIT), Inez ROOSEN (Maastricht Graduate School of Governance | UNU-MERIT), Alexander HOOGENBOOM (Maastricht University), Ingrid WESTENDORP (Maastricht University) and Katharina KOCK (Maastricht Graduate School of Governance | UNU-MERIT)

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: Internet site | EU Member State | Russia | marriage | trafficking in human beings | women's rights | children's rights | foreign national | socioeconomic conditions | Philippines

Summary: The study was requested by the European Parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality and commissioned, overseen and published by the Policy Department for Citizen’s Rights and Constitutional Affairs. This Study analyses the socio-legal status of the Mail-Order Bride industry in the EU, in terms of regulation, protection of rights, and the consequences of Mail-Order Bride relationships for women, men and children involved. It focuses on the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Ireland; defines the Mail-Order Bride (MOB) phenomenon. The report uses a combination of sociological and legal research methods including desk research, expert interviews and a mapping of International Marriage Broker (IMB) websites. It finds that it is difficult to distinguish between MOB and other groups of female marriage migrants. The report identifies three main legal gaps, namely the lack of regulation of IMB activities, the lack of a harmonized regime for family reunification, and the lack of harmonized protective measures for women in case of relationship break up. There is a need for additional prevention and protection measures, since female marriage migrants are considered particularly vulnerable to domestic violence.

Study EN

The Policy on Gender Equality in Netherlands

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 21-09-2015
External author: Janneke PLANTENGA and Chantal REMERY
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: leave on social grounds | sexual violence | Netherlands | prostitution | position of women | female work | gender equality | reproductive health | national law | equal treatment | birth control | part-time employment | equal pay | child care | participation of women

Summary: At the request of the FEMM Committee, this note provides an overview of the existing gender-equality legislation and policies in the Netherlands, focussing on their recent developments and achievements. It covers a range of topics including participation in decision making and labour market, reconciliation of work and family life, eradication of gender-based violence, and women’s well-being. The Netherlands has a long tradition in emancipation policies and equality legislation. Important policy issues are the high part-time rate which translates in a relatively low participation rate in full time equivalents and the low share of women in top positions.

In-Depth Analysis EN, NL

The Psychology and Economics of Women in Leadership

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-03-2013
External author: Kim Peters, Michelle Ryan, S. Alexander Haslam, and Thekla Morgenroth
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: occupational psychology | equal pay | position of women | board of directors | female work | promotion | gender equality

Summary: Although the number of women in the workforce has never been higher, they remain relatively underrepresented in leadership positions. In this note we discuss three ways in which the workplace experiences of women differ from those of men and how these can negatively affect women’s experiences in, and attainment of, leadership positions.

In-Depth Analysis EN

Street Artists in Europe

Publication type: Study
Date: 05-03-2007
External author: Yohann Floch
Policy area: Culture | Intellectual Property Law
Keyword: artistic profession | artistic creation | professional association | culture industry | performing arts | visual arts | cultural promotion | copyright

Summary: The study’s main objective is to analyse the situation of street artists in Europe, taking into account as much as possible all 27 Member countries. The study evaluates the importance of street arts and the characteristics of this artistic sector. The analysis is based on aesthetic and social research, enriched with surveys and interviews on the economic, political and cultural context of street arts, considering the multidisciplinary nature of the art forms, their social and urban involvement as well as its public

Study EN, FR
Women Professionals in the Media in the Context of New Technological Developments

Publication type: Study  
Date: 01-02-2000

External author: Mariagrazia Forcella (Teseo, Bergamo, Italy)

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Education | Industry

Keyword: female worker | vocational training | communications profession | mass media | position of women | gender equality | new technology

Summary: This study, as well as the researches and statistics to which reference is made, demonstrate the gender imbalance is large in media professions. Not only women occupy fewer posts, but also they have lower pays, they are employed on precarious terms, they occupy decision-making positions only in exceptional cases. Moreover, they are suffering from invisible obstacles such as preconceived ideas on women-suitable jobs and stereotypes proposing only men at top-positions. Finally, the fact women generally remain responsible for the house and childcare not only discriminates them in the labour market, but also strongly affects the chances to advance in their careers.

Most of the new jobs created during the last years in the media sector have been taken by women. The reason is the offer for part-time, independent, temporary, sub-contracted work, homework and other forms of telework, is raising.

The new posts in media are mostly of this type and women seem to be more prepared to accept and, in some cases, even to require these types of work settlements.

The impact of the ongoing changes in media sector has been estimated in this study as positive for women. Some of the trends in new media labour market seem to lean it in the direction of a conciliation with the characteristics of women labour.

Anyway, risks should not be ignored. To get the opportunities the new media can offer to the improvement of women professional situation, several measures need to be taken. Among all the fields requiring the attention of policy makers, the crucial ones are:

1) women education and training: if women will not catch up on ICT skills, the impact on their employment risks to be disastrous;
2) women participation to decision-making: women need not only to adapt to new technologies, but also to participate in their design, become media managers and entrepreneurs;
3) new social provisions, concerning work protection, taxation, remuneration: the current upheavals in the media prof

Study EN

Economic Aspects of the Condition of Roma Women

Publication type: Study  
Date: 01-05-2006

External author: Berliner Institut für Vergleichende Sozialforschung (BIVS)

Policy area: Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword: forced marriage | sexual discrimination | ethnic discrimination | schooling | rights of minorities | Roma | violence | marginalisation | women's rights

Summary: This study provides an overview of the economic situation of Roma women in 15 countries (Member States and candidate countries) presenting for each country the general situation of Roma and the specific position of Roma women and highlighting programmes and policies aiming at improving their situation.

Study DE, EN

Research for AGRI Committee - CAP Reform Post-2020 - Challenges in Agriculture

Publication type: Study  
Date: 14-10-2016

External author: Alan Matthews, Louis Pascal Mahé, Jean-Christophe Bureau, Thomas Dax and Andrew Copus

Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword: agricultural situation | reform of the CAP | rural development | economic forecasting | sustainable agriculture | EU aid | market support | import | farming sector | EU agricultural market | distribution of EU funding | common agricultural policy | EU statistics

Summary: This document was prepared for the Workshop on "Reflections on the agricultural challenges post-2020 in the EU: preparing the next CAP reform" of 8 November 2016, organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI) and its Policy Department (AGRI Research).

It contains three studies:

1. The future of direct payments (by Alan Matthews).
2. The future of market measures and risk management schemes (by Louis-Pascal Mahé and Jean-Christophe Bureau).
3. The future of rural development (by Thomas Dax and Andrew Copus).

Study EN

Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV
South Korea's presidential election: Potential for a new EU role in the Korean Peninsula

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 08-05-2017  
Author: Enrico D'AMBROGIO  
Policy area: Foreign Affairs  
Keyword: regional security | North Korea | South Korea | political morality | EU relations | candidate | political situation | business morals | foreign policy | presidential election | economic situation

Summary: South Korea has been shaken by a succession of corruption scandals involving politicians, judges, senior officials, businessmen and even academics. Impeachment of the country's first female president, the conservative Park Geun-hye, was confirmed by the Constitutional Court, and snap Presidential elections take place on 9 May 2017. Moon Jae-in, a liberal politician and a leading Minjoo (Democratic Party) personality, leads the polls and is the prospective next President of South Korea. Whoever will run the country is expected to launch an era of political and constitutional reform, as well as reducing the power of the chaebol, business conglomerates which enjoy outsize influence and impunity. Moon and the Minjoo are critical of deployment of the US-developed anti-missile shield, Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD). A new direction to relations with North Korea is also expected, with a shift from military deterrence to an engagement attitude. This new course could favour stability in the region, paving the way for a new role for the European Union, which could offer its experience in dialogue and integration to engage in a possible future denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

Briefing EN

An overview of the EU Youth Strategy 2013-2015

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 27-01-2016  
Author: Denise CHIRCOP  
Policy area: Education  
Keyword: poverty | youth unemployment | EU growth strategy | young worker | marginalisation | social integration | professional qualifications | integration into employment | entrepreneurship | non-formal education | political involvement | open method of coordination | job access | youth policy

Summary: Against a backdrop of high youth unemployment and the threat of marginalisation, the European Union (EU) Youth Strategy encourages Member States to consider young people as a resource, by developing specific actions within youth policy and by working with other areas in a cross-sectoral approach.

Coordination between youth and educational policies in order to develop competencies that are sought after by labour markets, as well as entrepreneurial abilities and civic skills is a particular priority in the Strategy.

Other areas of EU policy are also concerned: a complex array of issues needs to be addressed, such as youth mobility, the transmission of poverty, participation in sports and culture, social integration, health and wellbeing, political participation, and an engagement with world issues.

The EU Strategy is governed by the Open Method of Coordination, a soft approach applied in areas of policy where the EU has no legislative power. Evidence-based policy-making is at its heart and the approach is based on the quantitative measurement of a set of indicators, as well as peer-learning activities that promote policy reforms. Young people's active engagement is established through a process known as 'structured dialogue', bringing them into contact with policy-makers, but a more representative participation and concrete improvements on the ground remain challenges for the future. The European Parliament contributes to the debate on the Strategy by issuing own-initiative resolutions ahead of the Council and Commission joint reports which review implementation every three years.

Briefing EN

Internationalisation of Higher Education

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-07-2015  
External author: Hans de Wit and Fiona Hunter (Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation - CHEI) ; Laura Howard (European Association for International Education - EAIE) ; Eva Egron-Polak (International Association of Universities - IAU)  
Policy area: Culture | Education  
Keyword: United States | EU Member State | Japan | Canada | Colombia | higher education | comparative analysis | Australia | Malaysia | Norway | cooperation in the field of education | educational system | South Africa | educational exchange

Summary: A study on the understanding of Internationalisation of Higher Education in the European context, based on two surveys, an analysis of the role of digital learning, ten national reports from Europe and seven from outside Europe. The study results in conclusions and recommendations on the future of Internationalisation of Higher Education in Europe, based on the national reports and a Delphi process among experts in international higher education.

Study DE, EN, FR, IT  
Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV
The Policy on Gender Equality in Poland - Update September 2016

Publication type: Study
Date: 07-09-2016

External author: Dorota SZELEWA (School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin, Ireland) and ICRA Foundation, Warsaw, Poland

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword: project evaluation | Poland | EU policy | equal treatment | employment policy | organisation of elections | administrative transparency | gender mainstreaming | gender equality

Summary: The study was requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and commissioned, overseen and published by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs. The study presents a review of the most important legislation, institutional arrangements and policy programs with regard to gender equality in Poland. In particular, the following policy fields are covered: women in political decision-making, reproductive rights, trafficking in human beings and domestic violence, access to different forms of employment, as well as the policies addressing the reconciliation of work and family life. The final section describes the problem of public attitudes towards gender and gives examples of programs aimed at counteracting gender stereotypes.

Knowledge and Know-How: The Role of Self-Defence in the Prevention of Violence against Women

Publication type: Study
Date: 18-11-2016

External author: Liz Kelly and Nicola Sharp-Jeffs


Keyword: EU Member State | self-defence | domestic violence | interest group | women's rights | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs upon request by the FEMM Committee, examined research on the effectiveness of self-defence and its place in policies at EU and Member State levels. It concludes that there is a growing evidence base that feminist self-defence can be effective in preventing violence. Whilst references to self-defence are present in the EU and Council of Europe policy documents, they are not substantial and yet to be developed into a coherent approach. Self-defence should be considered a promising practice and be better promoted and supported. More space should be made for it in policy, financing and research.

Measures to Promote the Situation of Roma EU Citizens in the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-01-2011

External author: William BARTLETT (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK), Roberta BENINI (Nomisma Institute of Economic Research, Bologna, Italy) and Claire GORDON (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Social Policy

Keyword: ethnic discrimination | equal treatment | Roma | protection of minorities | European citizenship | social integration

Summary: The study presents a critical assessment of the national action plans, measures and instruments designed to promote the situation of Roma EU citizens in the EU, focusing on six new and old member states. It identifies the legal instruments and policies which can be used and put in place at the EU level, outlines the elements of a European Strategy for Roma Inclusion, and presents practical policy recommendations for the facilitation of Roma integration in the EU.

Annex of this study is available under title "Measures to promote the situation of Roma EU citizens in the European Union - Country reports" (see: PE 432 751)

The Conditions in Centres for Third Country National (detention camps, open centres as well as transit centres and transit zones) with a Particular Focus on Provisions and Facilities for Persons with special needs in the 25 eu member states

Publication type: Study
Date: 19-12-2007

External author: STEPS


Keyword: disabled person | EU migration policy | elderly person | area of freedom, security and justice | imprisonment | admission of aliens | foreign national | illegal migration | social facilities | human rights

Study: EN, FR
The European Union’s Role in International Economic Fora - Paper 1: The G20

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2015

External author: Fabian Amtenbrink, Niels Blokker, Stefaan van den Bogaert, Armin Cuypers, Klaus Heine, Christophe Hillion, Jarosław Kantorowicz, Hannes Lenk and René Repasi (European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance - EURO-CEFG)

Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: institutional structure | legal status | the EU's international role | legitimacy | world organisation | international finance | transparency in decision-making | economic policy | competence of the institution | political responsibility | interinstitutional relations | world economy

Summary
This paper forms part of a series of nine studies on the role of the European Union in international economic fora, prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament. It provides factual background information about the G20, the EU’s role and representation therein, its accountability as well as the coordination and impact thereof. The G20 has played a key role in measures taken to overcome the economic and financial crisis and promoted rules to prevent a repetition of such a crisis. The high compliance rate of the EU in implementing these commitments highlights the importance of the legally non-binding G20 commitments. Yet, the G20 is an informal international body where executives from officials’ up to leaders’ level meet. As a body G20 lacks meaningful accountability mechanisms. Moreover the EU can hardly be held to account for its action at the G20 level. This study provides a thorough analysis of the G20 and EU’s action at the G20 level. It sets out the EU legal framework for the participation of the EU and its Member States in the G20. In applying a two-tier accountability framework it identifies accountability gaps and concludes with policy recommendations.

Les travailleurs pauvres au sein de l’Union européenne

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 30-11-2017

Author: Marie LECERF
Policy area: Social Policy | Employment

Summary

One step forward and two steps back for human rights in the world

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 01-03-2018

Author: Joanna APAP
Policy area: Human Rights
Keyword: freedom of expression | sexual violence | sustainable development | drone | women's rights | gender equality | human rights | architectural heritage | Unesco | reproductive health | anti-discriminatory measure | EP resolution | dual-use technology

Summary
On 13 December 2017, just a few days after the United Nations’ Human Rights Day, the European Parliament (EP) adopted in plenary its annual resolution on human rights and democracy. Addressing the numerous pressures exerted on human rights in 2016, the resolution calls upon the European Union to place human rights at the centre of EU relations with all third countries and to lead by example. The resolution hails the step forward made for the empowerment of women, but also warns of two new challenges – backward steps – to human rights in the world. One is brought about by new technological developments, and the other by new trends in terrorism involving psychological intimidation through the destruction of heritage sites.
Economic Independence and the Position of Women on the Labour Market of the European Union

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 30-10-2014
External author Marcella Corsi (Università “La Sapienza”, Rome, Italy)
Policy area Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword pension scheme | labour market | EU Member State | fiscal policy | position of women | non-standard employment | female work | gender equality | equal treatment | equal pay | economic recession | participation of women | EU
statistics
Summary Upon request of the FEMM committee, this study examines the position of women on the labour market, drawing particular attention to factors behind the gender pay gap and the gender gap in pensions. The current crisis presents aspects that no other crisis has shown before. On the surface, gaps between men and women are being bridged but under the surface things are more complex and effects more diversified.
Overall, there is a need to introduce a gender perspective in the recovery measures: it would help to get out of the current situation sooner and better.

Teaching Teachers: Primary Teacher Training in Europe - State of Affairs and Outlook

Publication type Study
Date 15-07-2014
External author Johan Bokdam and Inge van den Ende (Panteia) ; Simon Broek (Ockham IPS)
Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Education
Keyword teacher training | educational reform | teaching quality | continuing vocational training | comparative education | France | Austria | Finland | Lithuania | Netherlands | university |
Summary This study provides input to the European Parliament’s Committee on Education and Culture on teacher quality in primary schools in Europe. It assesses the state of initial teacher training, early career support and continuous professional development in Europe from the perspective of individual teachers and teacher educators. We report on the extent to which these subsystems within the continuum of teacher education help teachers confront challenges in their classrooms, at school and system level. The report takes stock of reforms in the sector following previous recommendations. The study concludes with policy recommendations on how to further improve teaching quality through teacher education.

The Impact of the Crisis on Fundamental Rights across Member States of the EU - Country Report on Ireland

Publication type Study
Date 10-03-2015
External author Gillian Kelly (Milieu Ltd.) and Aoife Nolan
Keyword impact study | right to health | right to work | pension scheme | austerity policy | freedom of expression | access to the courts | freedom of assembly | right to education | monetary crisis | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | Ireland
Summary Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this study looks into the impact of the economic crisis and the austerity measures which were introduced as a response thereto, to the enjoyment of a set of selected fundamental rights by individuals in Ireland. It also contains recommendations on how to make sure that the enjoyment of these rights is ensured in the future.
**International Agreements in Progress: EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 14-02-2018  
**Author** Martin RUSSELL  
**Policy area** International Trade | Foreign Affairs | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
**Keyword** impact study | customs duties | free-trade agreement | bilateral agreement | wage cost | Vietnam  
**Summary** The free trade agreement (FTA) with Vietnam has been described as the most ambitious deal of its type ever concluded between the EU and a developing country. Not only will it eliminate over 99 % of customs duties on goods, it will also open up Vietnamese services markets to EU companies and strengthen protection of EU investments in the country. According to European Commission figures, the FTA could boost Vietnam’s booming economy by as much as 15 % of GDP, with Vietnamese exports to Europe growing by over one third. For the EU, the agreement is an important stepping stone to a wider EU-south-east Asia trade deal. Despite the obvious economic benefits of the FTA for Vietnam, some of its more vulnerable manufacturing sectors may suffer from competition with the EU. NGOs have also criticised the EU for pursuing closer ties with a politically repressive regime known for its human rights abuses, although the deal includes some safeguards against negative outcomes. Although the content of the FTA was already agreed in 2015, ratification has been delayed by a 2017 opinion of the European Court of Justice. The Court argued that some aspects of the EU-Singapore FTA, which is similar to the Vietnam FTA, are ‘mixed competences’, meaning that the FTA as it stands will have to be ratified not only by the EU but also by the 28 Member States. The Commission and Council are now considering whether to agree the agreement so that parts of it can be ratified more speedily by the EU alone. Second edition. The ‘International Agreements in Progress’ briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification.

**Social Cohesion and Demographic Development in a Sustainable Europe**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-11-2011  
**Author** Rudolf MAIER | Marion SCHMID-DRÜNER | Marek KOŁODZIEJSKI | Erika SCHULZE | Alice ZOPPÉ  
**Policy area** Budget | Social Policy | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development  
**Keyword** pension scheme | economic consequence | population ageing | health care | continuing education | social integration | humanisation of work | demographic analysis | regional development | working population  
**Summary** Documents of the Joint Parliamentary Meeting on "Social Cohesion and Demographic Development in a Sustainable Europe" held on 5-6 December 2011 in Brussels

**Trends in female employment**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 26-10-2015  
**Author** Monika KISS  
**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment  
**Keyword** pension scheme | female migrant | employment statistics | female worker | population ageing | equal pay | entrepreneurship | maternity leave | labour flexibility | female work | gender equality | EU employment policy  
**Summary** Statistics and research results show that over the past decade, despite the economic and financial downturn, the EU's labour market has witnessed an increase in women's employment rates. Women's employment seems to be more resilient to the economic crisis than men's. This is partly due to long-term developments and institutional framework changes, as well as to women's tendency to work in particular sectors and accept flexible working arrangements (e.g. part-time work, flexi-working). Despite the general upward trend, however, women's employment rates vary by Member State, age, social group, and educational level. Even though international and EU legislation takes account of women's situation in the labour market, and the EU dedicates a substantial amount of analytical work to it, a number of challenges remain unresolved. Examples include the need to harmonise retirement schemes taking into account specific characteristics of women's careers; to better reconcile work and family life through more flexible employment arrangements; but the improvement and recognition of women's skills, the equal treatment of domestic work and migrant workers, and the further closing of the gender pay gap are likewise important.

**Data for the Evaluation of the European Semester Process from a Gender Equality Perspective**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-03-2012  
**External author** Paola Villa, Elvira Gonzalez and Silvia Sansonetti (Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, Italy)  
**Policy area** European Semester | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity  
**Keyword** project evaluation | statistics | female worker | EU action | equal treatment | data collection | benchmarking | position of women | gender equality  
**Summary** The study sets out 83 indicators for the inclusion of the gender perspective in the evaluation of the Europe 2020 Strategy during the European Semester process. The indicators encompass the five EU 2020 headline targets and will introduce a gender perspective into the indicators dashboard of the European Semester. The proposal for a WIKI EU Semester & Gender Equality Web Platform is put forward as an option enhancing contributions and the follow-up of the European Semester process from a gender equality perspective by civil society organisations.

**Executive summary** DE, FR
### Social and Working Conditions in the Transport Sector of the European Union

**Publication type**: Study  
**Date**: 15-10-2009  
**External author**: Giorgia Aresu, Diego Artuso, Elisabetta Martone, Micaela Celio and Claudio Ricciolio (all from PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory Srl Italy)  
**Patrizia Ordine** (scientific review)  
**Policy area**: Transport | Social Policy | Employment  
**Keyword**: pay | working time | pension scheme | road transport | maritime transport | working conditions | social dialogue | rail transport | air transport | labour force  
**Summary**: This study provides an overview of social and working conditions in five main transport sectors: road, railways, air, maritime and inland waterways. After a brief presentation of the economic, social and legislative framework for each sector, the study addresses specific issues such as wages and wage/pension schemes, working time, social dialogue etc. for each sector. The study then highlights the main problems/challenges for each sector and makes recommendations for further studies and legislation/political discussion at EU level.

### A Comparative Analysis of Media Freedom and Pluralism in the EU Member States

**Publication type**: Study  
**Date**: 15-09-2016  
**External author**: Petra BÁRD, Visiting Professor, Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary  
Judit BAYER, Professor, University of Miskolc, Hungary  
Under the coordination of the Justice and Home Affairs Section of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Brussels, Belgium (Dr. Sergio CARRERA)  
**Policy area**: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice  
**Keyword**: pluralism in the media | State aid | broadcasting | Internet site | EU Member State | freedom of the press | conflict of interest | administrative transparency | comparative study | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights  
**Summary**: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee. The authors argue that democratic processes in several EU countries are suffering from systemic failure, with the result that the basic conditions of media pluralism are not present, and, at the same time, that the distortion in media pluralism is hampering the proper functioning of democracy. The study offers a new approach to strengthening media freedom and pluralism, bearing in mind the different political and social systems of the Member States. The authors propose concrete, enforceable and systematic actions to correct the deficiencies found.

### The EU's youth initiatives: Closing the gap between education and employment

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 11-03-2016  
**Author**: Ivana KATSAROVA  
**Policy area**: Employment | Education  
**Keyword**: youth unemployment | vocational training | EU initiative | fight against unemployment | EU growth strategy | job access | youth employment | youth policy | EU programme | professional qualifications  
**Summary**: Currently nearly 20% of young people (aged 15-24) in the EU-28 are unemployed. This represents one in five young Europeans; and nearly one in two in Spain and Greece, where youth unemployment rates are particularly high.

Although the most promising way of providing opportunities for young people is through restoring growth and employment, specific measures focused on youth are essential. In this context, different EU initiatives have been put in place to improve the learning paths, mobility, and employability of young people.

The Europe 2020 Strategy (launched in 2010) has a strong focus on young adults, with a headline target of reducing early school-leaving from 15% to 10%, and increasing the share of higher education graduates from 31% to at least 40% by 2020. The Youth Employment Package (2012) triggered the creation of a Youth Guarantee to ensure that all young people under the age of 26 receive a good-quality offer of employment, education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education. To help Member States step up national policies in combating youth unemployment, the Council established a Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) in 2013. The more than €6 billion available under this initiative will be used to reinforce and accelerate measures outlined in the Youth Employment Package and in particular, in the Youth Guarantee. All operational programmes funded through the YEI are currently being implemented. However, recent reviews reveal some common drawbacks with regard to conceptual design, the nature of the envisaged measures, and the sustainability of the schemes.

This briefing substantially updates an earlier one of October 2014, PE 538.949.
Protection of Vulnerable Adults

Publication type: Study
Date: 08-09-2016
Author: Christian SALM
Policy area: European Added Value | Public international law | Social Policy | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: disease of the nervous system | disabled person | population ageing | dependence of elderly persons | freedom of movement | code of conduct
Summary: While benefiting from the freedom of movement and residence in the European Union (EU), vulnerable adults often face legal difficulties when in a cross-border situation as a result of the lack of solid legal protection. This is due to the different protection schemes operating in the EU Member States, and the incomplete international legal framework, creating legal uncertainties in the Europe-wide protection of vulnerable adults. This European Added Value Assessment identifies weaknesses in the existing legal framework for the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations, focusing on the most important international legal instrument in the field: the Hague Adult Protection Convention of 13 January 2000. The Assessment goes on to outline potential legal measures which could be taken at the EU level and which would generate European added value through simplification and transparency of the legal framework in this area.

Implementation of the Directives on Health and Safety at Work as a Cost Factor

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2010
External author: Janne Sylvest, Karin Gros Pedersen, Benita Kidmose Rytz and Mette Damso (Rambøll Management Consulting, Denmark)
Policy area: Transposition and Implementation of Law | Employment | Public Health
Keyword: occupational disease | administrative formalities | occupational accident | working environment | occupational health | small and medium-sized enterprises
Summary: The study aims at better understanding the importance of Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) as a contributing factor to the economic viability of an organisation and looks into the potential effects of the proposals currently on the table for reducing administrative burdens in the field of health and safety at work. It considers the costs and benefits of compliance with OSH obligations, new and emerging risks and the need for new prevention measures to address these.

Turkey since the failed July 2016 coup

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 19-09-2016
Author: Philippe PERCHOC
Policy area: Democracy | Foreign Affairs
Summary: For the last two decades Turkey has faced a highly destabilised regional environment: to the north with recent conflicts around the Black Sea; to the east with the frozen southern Caucasus conflicts, and United States-led intervention followed by civil war in Iraq; and to the south with the civil war in Syria and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The civil war in Syria has prompted a huge influx of refugees into Turkey. With more than 2.7 million refugees, Turkey is the country with the biggest refugee population in the world. After a brilliant period of growth over the past 15 years, the externally dependent Turkish economy now has external and internal challenges to face, including the recent fall in foreign direct investment, difficulties with refugee integration and higher unemployment. The leading Justice and Development Party (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi or AKP), in power since late 2002, faced its first difficulties in the June 2015 general election, in the wake of a struggle to impose control on a highly politicised civil service. After the failed military coup of July 2016, in which the opposition parties mobilised with the AKP to preserve democracy, the government launched a major purge on civil servants affiliated with the Gülen movement, which it blames for the coup. The failed coup has prompted a more rapid rapprochement with Russia and an apparent shift in Turkey's foreign policy. In recent years, and especially since July 2016, the relationship between Turkey, a candidate country, and the EU has been challenging, but remains crucial to both sides.

Analysis of the Social Agendas

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-03-2010
External author: Werner Eichhorst (Institute for the Study of Labor - IZA), Stephanie Devisscher (IDEA Consult), Thomas Leoni (WIFO Institute), Paul Marx (IZA), Ulrike Mühlberger (WIFO Institute), Bernd Schulte (Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law) and Barbara Vandeweghe (IDEA Consult)
Policy area: Social Policy | Employment
Keyword: European social policy | equal treatment | social dialogue (EU) | open method of coordination | European Parliament | social security | action programme | EU employment policy
Summary: The study provides an overview of the evolution from Social Actions Programmes in the late 1990s to the Social Policy Agenda as of 2000 and of the role played by the European Parliament in contributing to the development of the Social Action Programmes and Social Policy Agendas.
The Impact of the Crisis on Fundamental Rights across Member States of the EU - Country Report on Belgium

Publication type Study
Date 10-03-2015
External author Dalila Ghailani (OSE) and Bart Vanhercke
Keyword right to work | pension scheme | austerity policy | freedom of expression | access to the courts | freedom of assembly | monetary crisis | Belgium | right to health | impact study | right to housing | health care system | right to education | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
Summary Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this study looks into the impact of the economic crisis and the austerity measures which were introduced as a response thereto, to the enjoyment of a set of selected fundamental rights by individuals in Belgium. It also contains recommendations on how to make sure that the enjoyment of these rights is ensured in the future.

Study EN

The Reform of the Dublin III Regulation

Publication type Study
Date 28-06-2016
External author Francesco Maiani (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Human Rights
Keyword political refugee | regulation (EU) | political asylum | migration control | amendment of a law | drafting of EU law | application of EU law | human rights
Summary This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee. It examines the performance of Dublin and of relocation schemes, and assesses the Commission's 'Dublin IV' Proposal in this light. It argues that by retaining the Dublin philosophy and betting on more coercion, Dublin IV is unlikely to achieve its objectives while raising human rights concerns. It advocates re-centring EU responsibility allocation schemes on one key objective – quick access to asylum procedures. This requires taking protection seekers' preferences seriously and de-bureaucratising the process. Such a reform would need to be accompanied by (a) stepping up the enforcement of refugee rights across the EU, (b) moving solidarity schemes from a logic of capacity-building to one of compensation, and (c) granting protected persons real mobility rights.

Study EN

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - October 2017

Publication type At a Glance
Date 02-10-2017
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Culture | Budgetary Control | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs | Education
Keyword budgetary control | EP Committee | dissemination of EU information | auditing | EU financing | EU budget | multiannual financial framework | bibliography
Summary The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events.

At a Glance EN

Tunisia: Progress achieved and prospects for the social dimension

Publication type At a Glance
Date 30-11-2017
Author Joanna APAP
Policy area Foreign Affairs
Keyword youth unemployment | right to demonstrate | freedom of association | freedom of assembly | position of women | working conditions | women's rights | Tunisia | access to education | female worker | public hygiene | equal pay | interparliamentary relations | democratisation | trade union | civil society | economic situation
Summary In 2011, following the outbreak of protests – known as the Jasmine Revolution – which toppled President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's regime, Tunisia embarked on a path to democratic transition and socio-economic transformation, emulating the reforms and governance practices of established liberal democracies. Nearly eight years on, the country has made significant progress, including in the social sphere, and has emerged as a regional leader in institutional reform. However, to avoid jeopardising the stability and progress achieved, further reforms are needed.

At a Glance EN
De jure versus de facto labour rights in China

*Publication type* At a Glance

*Date* 20-06-2017

*Author* Gisela GRIEGER

*Policy area* Employment | Foreign Affairs

*Keyword* collective bargaining | labour tribunal | labour law | access to the courts | employment policy | international law - national law | working conditions | trade union freedom | international labour law | economic reform | international competition | China

*Summary* For China, striking the right balance between using its abundant, cheap workforce as a competitive advantage and protecting labour rights has been a major challenge. Although China has developed a considerable body of law governing labour relations, there is still a huge gap between the labour rights on the statute books and those enjoyed by workers in practice. Over-riding economic interests to attract foreign investors and to boost economic growth have seriously undermined effective labour rights enforcement. China's vanishing demographic dividend may require a new balance.

At a Glance  EN

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The Cost of Non-Schengen: Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs aspects

*Publication type* Study

*Date* 08-09-2016

*Author* Wouter VAN BALLEGOOIJ

*Policy area* Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | European Added Value

*Keyword* border control | impact study | internal border of the EU | fight against crime | illicit trade | Schengen Agreement | drug traffic | free movement of persons | external border of the EU

*Summary* This study identifies the costs, in economic, social and political terms, of the (temporary) reintroduction of border controls between the Schengen Member States, with a special focus on civil liberties, justice and home affairs aspects. It recommends more concerted action at EU level with a view to returning to a fully functioning Schengen Area. Regaining inter-Member State and citizen's trust in the EU's ability to tackle the deficiencies exposed by the refugee crisis should be an immediate priority. More concerted action at EU level is necessary to foster solidarity and cooperation between Member State authorities. Their work should also be supported through EU agencies, such as the European Border and Coast Guard, Europol, Eurojust and the European Asylum Support Office. The need for changes to the current Schengen governance framework should be further considered based on compliance with the conditions allowing five Member States to maintain their internal border controls until November 2016.

Study  DE, EN, FR

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Gender Aspects in Lifelong Learning

*Publication type* Study

*Date* 31-10-2007

*External author* European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA), Brussels, Belgium

*Policy area* Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Education

*Keyword* EU Member State | participation of women | position of women | continuing education | female work | continuing vocational training | gender equality

*Summary* The objective of this study is to contribute to the gathering of data available on women's participation in lifelong learning and to make recommendations concerning non-academic lifelong learning, in particular adult education, for women. The relationship of learning for access to, and promotion in, the labour market has also been considered.

Study  EN

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The Status of Artists in Europe

*Publication type* Study

*Date* 01-11-2006

*External author* European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts), Allemagne Suzanne Capiau, Andreas Johannes Wiesand.

*Policy area* Culture | Employment

*Keyword* artistic profession | labour mobility | tax exemption | VAT rate | self-employment | social security | socioeconomic conditions

*Summary* This report presents innovative national measures and models aimed at improving the socioeconomic status of authors (e.g. writers or visual artists) and performing artists in Europe. It addresses five main areas: individual working and contract relations; professional representation; social security; taxation; and aspects of transnational mobility. Based on the findings of the study, proposals for future Europewide action are made.

Study  XL, DE, EN, FR
The EU's Energy Diplomacy: Transatlantic and Foreign Policy Implications

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-06-2016
External author: Eckart Woertz
Policy area: Energy | Global Governance | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: United States | energy cooperation | energy diversification | natural gas | Canada | petroleum | OPEC countries | coal | OPEC | security of supply | energy market | energy transport | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | export policy | climate change policy | import policy | Russia | trade agreement (EU) | geopolitics
Summary: Energy security is increasingly occupying a top spot on the EU’s foreign policy agenda. The unconventional oil and gas revolution, OPEC’s supply response, increased global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) trade, persistent concerns about the reliability of Russian gas supplies and the need to expand low carbon energies such as renewables to address climate change pose opportunities and challenges to European energy security. The EU has upgraded the issue with its flagship Energy Union communication and its EU Energy Diplomacy Action Plan. The United States has developed into a major exporter of Natural Gas Liquids and refined petroleum products as a result of its unconventional oil and gas revolution. It might develop export capacities for LNG and continues to be a major coal exporter. The mutual energy trade could expand if the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were concluded successfully. The United States is also a crucial partner of the EU for transport security and the protection of critical energy infrastructure. Against this backdrop, this study analyses opportunities and challenges of transatlantic energy cooperation in a changing global energy landscape.
Study: EN

The Policy on Gender Equality in Denmark

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 07-07-2015
External author: Mrs Lise ROLANDSEN AGUSTIN
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: leave on social grounds | sexual violence | domestic violence | prostitution | position of women | trafficking in human beings | female work | gender equality | reproductive health | national law | equal treatment | birth control | equal pay | child care | participation of women | decision-making | Denmark
Summary: Upon request of the FEMM committee, this in-depth analysis updates a previous note published in October 2011 and describes Danish policies, practices and legislation within the area of women's rights and gender equality, covering the period from October 2011, when the Social Democrat-led government took office, to April 2015. During this period, the focus has been put on gender-based violence, leave policies, pay statistics, gender segregation in the labour market and in education, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights. Earmarked leave for fathers and gender quota on company boards have been on the agenda but not adopted.
In-Depth Analysis: DA, EN

EU Cooperation in the Field of Social Inclusion

Publication type: Study
Date: 03-05-2010
External author: Chiara Crepaldi (coordinator), Davide Barbieri, Paolo Boccagni, Sandra Naaf and Flavia Pesce (with the collaboration of Donata Gottardi, Santina Bertulessi and Fabio Ravelli) (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale - IRS, Milano, Italy)
Policy area: Social Policy
Keyword: European social policy | economic and social cohesion | European Social Fund | open method of coordination | social services | social security | social integration
Summary: The objective of the study is to provide an analysis of the Social OMC process at EU and national level, to highlight its strengths and weaknesses and to discuss proposals for improvement as emerging from internal assessments, academic debate and stakeholders' suggestions, focusing in particular on the present and possible future role reserved for the European Parliament.
Study: EN
The Gender Dimension of Geographic Labour Mobility in the European Union

Study
Publication type: Study
Date: 16-11-2009
External author: Louise Ackers and Alex Balch with Sam Scott, Samantha Currie and Debbie Millard (with the assistance of Marek Kupiszewski and Weronika Kloc-Nowak - Central European Forum for Migration and Population Research, Warsaw; Heloisa Perista - CESIS, Lisbon; Annick Masselot - University of Canterbury, New Zealand and Camille Schmoll - Université Paris)
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: female worker | migration | labour mobility | student mobility | free movement of workers
Summary: This study focuses on the gender dimensions of labour mobility within the European Union. It focuses on the experiences of mobile EU workers and considers the extent to which forms of intra-EU mobility are gendered. The concept of ‘worker’, for the purposes of this study, embraces not only employed citizens but also those ‘economically active’ people moving in search of work, those training for employment and family members who accompany an employed partner but who are not themselves employed at the point of entry.

EMN Synthesis Report : Satisfying Labour Demand through Migration

Study
Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2011
External author: European Migration Network
Keyword: labour market | access to a profession | international cooperation | EU migration policy | labour shortage | migrant worker | foreign national
Summary: This Synthesis Report summaries the main findings of the National Reports for the EMN Study on Satisfying Labour Demand through Migration undertaken by EMN National Contact Points from 23 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom). The overall purpose of this study was to identify those sectors experiencing shortages in the Member States, to outline the national strategies for addressing labour market needs with third-country national migrant workers and to gain an understanding of the perceived effectiveness of these strategies, including examining the impact of the recent economic downturn and recovery on them. The study covers the period from 2004 up to end of 2010 with statistics provided up to the end of 2009.

Empowerment of Roma Women within the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion Strategies

Study
Publication type: Study
Date: 16-09-2013
External author: Niall Crowley, Angela Genova and Silvia Sansonetti
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: access to education | ethnic discrimination | EU action | housing allocation | Roma | domestic violence | participation of women | trafficking in human beings | woman | women's rights
Summary: This study focuses on the concept of empowerment of Romani women to analyse the existing living conditions of Romani women, interpret the national Roma inclusion strategy and to scrutinise good practices. The analysis shows that the present living conditions of Romani women in European Member States call for intervention. Romani women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming approaches have to be fostered in National Roma Inclusion Strategies.

Executive summary
DE, FR

07-02-2020
Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
The EU, Middle East and North Africa [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 06-10-2017  
Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI  
Policy area: Global Governance | Foreign Affairs  
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | establishment of peace | the EU's international role | Syria | nuclear weapon | multilateral relations | international conflict | Afghanistan | Mediterranean region (EU) | North Africa | think tank | terrorism | civil war | Middle East  
Summary: Developments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) pose a growing challenge for the European Union. Many countries in the region face war, political turmoil and popular anger, due to the impact of poverty in generating instability, migration and, in some cases, terrorism. The EU wants to contribute to stability in MENA through instruments such as the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean, but there are calls for the EU to play an even more active role in the region. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports by major international think tanks on EU-MENA relations and the general problems found within the region and some specific countries.

Rolling Legislative Agenda of the European Union. Europe connects & Europe protects

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-09-2014  
Author: Klaus WELLE | Philipp SCHULMEISTER | Franck DEBIE  
Policy area: Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
Keyword: single market | common commercial policy | governance | Economic and Monetary Union | citizens' Europe | consumer protection | area of freedom, security and justice | EU industrial policy | common foreign and security policy | EU environmental policy | financing of the EU budget | energy policy | legislative programme (EU) | common transport policy | common agricultural policy | EU employment policy  
Summary: For the first time at the beginning of a legislative term the European Council has presented a 'Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change', outlining political guidelines in five thematic areas. On these five thematic areas and beyond the European Parliament had, during the past legislative term (2009-2014), developed and adopted numerous initiatives for European legislation, calling on the European Commission for legislative action with a view to addressing the political, economic and societal challenges the European Union is faced with. Some of the legislative requests have been taken up by the Commission and subsequently adopted as part of the European Union’s answers to the financial and economic crisis or together with the new Multiannual Financial Framework. A substantial number of legislative requests were, nevertheless, not addressed. Yet they remain fully valid in view of the European Council’s Strategic Agenda. The present comprehensive document assembles Parliament’s remaining legislative requests, structured according to the thematic blocks of the European Council’s Strategic Agenda and to their individual state of play.

Brexit and the European Union: General Institutional and Legal Considerations

Publication type: Study  
Date: 25-01-2017  
Author: MIGUEL TELL CREMADES | Petr NOVAK  
Keyword: Member States' contribution | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | European security | United Kingdom | government | national parliament | withdrawal from the EU | trade agreement | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU  
Summary: This study was requested by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament. It examines the political and institutional steps taken, or to be taken, both by the UK and by the EU in the context of the Brexit referendum vote, and into how matters may evolve in the coming months and years from a legal and institutional perspective. It will analyses, in broad terms, the possibilities for a future relationship between the Union and its departing member and the consequences that the departure of a large Member State may entail for the rest of the policies of the Union and for the Union itself. The study also briefly examines the potential for institutional progress that opens with the departure of the United Kingdom.
Overview of the Worldwide Best Practices for Rape Prevention and for Assisting Women Victims of Rape

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-10-2013
External author: Sylvia Walby (Lancaster University, UK), Philippa Olive (Lancaster University), Jude Towers (Lancaster University), Brian Francis (Lancaster University), Sofia Strid (Örebro University, Sweden), Andrea Krizsán (Central European University, Budapest, Hungary), Emanuela Lombardo (Università Complutense de Madrid, Spain), Corinne May-Chaah (Lancaster University), Suzanne Franzway (University of South Australia), David Sugarman (Lancaster University), Bina Agarwal (University of Delhi and University of Manchester)

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: prevention of delinquency | public awareness campaign | fight against crime | sexual violence | help for victims | women's rights | civil society | gender equality | penalty

Summary: The study provides an overview of the worldwide best practices for rape prevention and for assisting women victims of rape. It reviews the international literature and offers selected examples of promising practices. It addresses the comprehensive range of policies in the fields of gender equality; law and justice; economy, development and social inclusion; culture, education and media; and health. It presents a wide-ranging set of examples of best practice. It concludes with a series of recommendations, based on the social scientific evidence presented in the study.

Study EN

Executive summary DE, FR

Application of the System of Derogation to the Rules of Origin of Fisheries Products in Papua New Guinea and Fiji

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-09-2012
External author: Blomeyer & Sanz , Centre of Marine Sciences, University of Algarve, University of Vigo and University of Wageningen

Policy area: Environment | Economics and Monetary Issues | Fisheries
Keyword: social impact | Papua New Guinea | conservation of resources | fishing industry | Fiji | designation of origin | agreement (EU) | environmental impact | economic situation

Summary: This study aims to provide an independent assessment of the impact of the derogation to the standard Rules of Origin under the 2009 interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) between the EU and Papua New Guinea. Overall, the study findings validate, albeit to a limited extent, the iEPA's negative economic impact on the EU tuna processing industry (trade, production, added value, employment). The iEPA's economic and social impact on Papua New Guinea is largely considered positive (growing tuna processing and related employment opportunities). Finally, substantial concerns exist with regard to the environmental issues at stake (health of tuna stocks).

Study EN

The Social Situation of the Roma and their Improved Access to the Labour Market in the EU

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2008
External author: Chiara Crepaldi (coordinator), Paolo Boccagni, Marzia Barbera and Sandra Naaf (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale - IRS, Milano, Italy) (authors); Paolo Boccagni (Spain and Latvia), Simone Scarpia (Finland), Flavia Pesce (Italy) and Marieta Radu (Romania) (authors of the case studies)

Policy area: Social Policy | Employment | Education | Human Rights
Keyword: access to education | equal treatment | anti-discriminatory measure | Roma | job access | social security | social integration | socioeconomic conditions

Summary: The study provides an i) analysis of the status and legal definition of the Roma Community in each of the 27 Member States; ii) assessment whether directives adopted under Article 13 ECT are appropriate in order to address the needs and to improve the integration of Roma in the fields of education, employment, social inclusion, (vocational) training; iii) general overview of specific cases of best practices throughout Europe on access to the labour market, education system, decent housing, financial services (Finland, Romania, Spain, Latvia and Italy); iv) existing financial instruments supporting the inclusion of Roma in the field of employment, social inclusion, (vocational) training, the role of pensions, working poor and access to micro-credit schemes.

Study EN

Plight of the Rohingya minority in Myanmar/Burma

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 15-09-2017
Author: Martin RUSSELL

Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: aid to refugees | military regime | stateless person | the EU's international role | ethnic discrimination | Burma/Myanmar | Muslim | religious discrimination | ethnic cleansing | protection of minorities | repression | human rights

Summary: The brutal military crackdown since October 2016 in Myanmar/Burma's Rakhine State has highlighted the tragic situation of Muslim Rohingya, often described as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. Deprived of citizenship and basic freedoms at home, those who risk their lives to escape can at best hope for a precarious existence abroad. This text updates an earlier ‘at a glance note’, published in February 2017 - PE 599.257.

At a Glance EN
North Korea: Seventh Party Congress Enshrines Nuclear Ambitions but Says Little about Economic Reform

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 02-06-2016
Author: Roberto BENDINI
Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Human Rights
Keyword: United States | nuclear weapon | head of State | common foreign and security policy | party congress | economic reform | China | defence policy | North Korea | South Korea | international sanctions | nuclear policy | authoritarian regime | armed forces | Communist Party | economic situation
Summary: The Korean Workers' Party (KWP) held its Seventh Congress, the first since 1980, from 6 to 9 May 2016. In theory, the Congress is the highest deliberative body of the only governing party of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The Congress yielded relatively modest results, with no real breakthrough, apart from establishing the 'defensive' nuclear deterrence concept. Kim Jong-un's position as North Korea's supreme leader was fully formalised and now seems to be stronger than ever. The Party is likely to gain further power at the expense of the military. Nuclear deterrence is now firmly enshrined in the Party's statutes as well as the country's constitution. Pyongyang has made clear that no nuclear deal is possible unless the US and its allies accept North Korea as a 'nuclear state'. Despite its propaganda announcements, North Korea is not ready to modernise its sclerotic economy. While some cautious developments cannot be ruled out, the regime's open criticism of the Chinese economic model suggest that any reforms would be limited and very probably inconclusive.

Interactions between New Technologies and the Job Market, Flexicurity and Training / Vocational Training

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-10-2007
External author: ETAG (European Technology Assessment Group) ; Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS), Karlsruhe ; Danish Board of Technology (DBT), Copenhagen ; Flemish Institute for Science and Technology Assessment (viWTA), Brussels ; Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), London ; Rathenau Institute, The Hague ; Bettina-Johanna Krings and Anna Muellner (Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis - ITAS)
Policy area: Employment | Education | Industry
Keyword: new type of employment | skilled worker | vocational training | job creation | fight against unemployment | labour flexibility | continuing education | social integration | EU employment policy | new technology
Summary: The following report provides a conceptual framework for the interaction between new technologies and job markets. It focuses on the importance of vocational training in these processes and on integrating the flexicurity concept as a policy instrument which is gaining more and more importance in public debate.

The Role of Minimum Income for Social Inclusion in the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 19-12-2007
External author: Chiara Crepaldi (Coordinator), Alfonso Gambino, Simona Baldi and, Barbara Da Roit, Emanuele Ranci Ortigosa (Scientific supervisor) Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale Via XX Settembre24 I - 20123 Milan Italy
Policy area: Social Policy | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: poverty | aid to disadvantaged groups | European social policy | social inequality | subsistence level income | standard of living | unemployment insurance
Study
Proceedings of the Workshop on Evolution of Collective Bargaining in Troika Programme and Post-Programme Member States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>21-03-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Marion SCHMID-DRÜNER</td>
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<tr>
<td>External author</td>
<td>Ricardo RODRIGUEZ CONTRERAS, Maria DA PAZ CAMPOS LIMA, Aurora TRIF, Peter RIGNEY and Aristea KOUKIADAKI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy area</td>
<td>Social Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keyword</td>
<td>collective bargaining</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs requested a workshop on &quot;Evolution of Collective Bargaining in Troika Programme and Post-Programme Member States&quot;, which was held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 18 February 2016. The workshop is connected to the EMPL Committee's ongoing work on monitoring the implementation of labour market and social reforms foreseen by the Memorandum of Understanding with Greece and its interest in following up the findings of the EP resolution of 13 March 2014 on Employment and social aspects of the role and operations of the Troika; it is also connected to the European Commission's intention to relaunch social dialogue. The workshop presentations trace the development of collective bargaining in the last decades and have a look at the state of play of collective bargaining in Portugal, Romania, Ireland and Greece. This Policy Department A publication contains the programme, a summary of discussions, background papers and the presentations of the workshop.</td>
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Study EN

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International Protection in Greece - Background information for the LIBE Committee delegation to Greece
22-25 May 2017

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<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>IOANNIS PAPAGEORGIOU</td>
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<td>Policy area</td>
<td>Area of Freedom, Security and Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keyword</td>
<td>third country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this paper provides a general overview of the latest developments in terms of international protection and reception of third-country nationals in Greece for the purposes of the visit of a delegation of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs to Greece.</td>
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Study EN

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India and challenges ahead in the Indo-Pacific region: Opportunities for cooperation with the EU

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<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Enrico D'AMBROGIO</td>
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<td>Policy area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Lying in the middle of the Indian Ocean, India relies heavily on the ocean for its energy and trade, but also faces both conventional and non-conventional security challenges which the ocean presents. At the same time, its operational theatre is widening to include a bigger geopolitical region: the Indo-Pacific, including the South China Sea. Alongside this broadening horizon, India needs to reckon with an emerging actor: China. Not only has Beijing's military presence in the Indian Ocean increased considerably, but it has been planning naval bases and civilian port infrastructure in a region in which India has traditionally enjoyed maritime prominence. China's 'string of pearls' strategy has left New Delhi feeling 'encircled'. Major efforts to modernise the Indian navy and to enhance cooperation and alliances in the region suggest that India is taking the challenge seriously. However, missing from this framework are a comprehensive maritime policy, a single body in charge of coordinating Indian maritime policies and interests, and a more developed shipbuilding sector. Besides, there is no effective agreement or mechanism for multilateral cooperation on maritime security in the Indian Ocean. Since 2008, the EU has been a successful net security provider in the western part of the Indo-Pacific region through its Operation Atalanta / EU NAVFOR Somalia anti-piracy deployment. Adopted in 2014, the EU's new maritime security strategy offers opportunities to further develop its cooperation with India on maritime issues and in particular on non-conventional security issues, in order to upgrade bilateral relations.</td>
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Briefing EN
Access to Shelters of Undocumented Migrant Women Fleeing Domestic Violence: The Legal and Practical Situation in the Member States

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2013

External author: Katie McCracken, Kate Cook and Khatidja Chantler (OpCit Research, London, the UK)

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: female migrant | information analysis | domestic violence | position of women | marginalisation | trafficking in human beings | illegal migration | European Institute for Gender Equality

Summary: This study is a literature review about the ability of undocumented migrant women who experience domestic violence to access shelter and support. The study brings together data on characteristics of this group of women and the difficulties they face in seeking help. It includes eight case studies and important lessons about the political/economic, social and individual-level barriers to their seeking the help they need to preserve their Human Right to safety.

Executive summary

Ukraine and the EU [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 25-07-2017

Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI

Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: Eastern Partnership | Crimea question | think tank | bilateral relations | Russia | Ukraine | occupied territory | international conflict | euroscepticism

Summary: Relations between the European Union and Ukraine have been improving since the Maidan protests ousted President Viktor Yanukovych in 2014, leading to the election of pro-Western Petro Poroshenko as head of state. At their meeting on 12-13 July, EU and Ukrainian leaders welcomed the completion of the ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and the recent entry into force of visa liberalisation for Ukrainian citizens. However, Ukraine's security situation remains precarious following Russia's annexation of Crimea and the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, in which Russia's role is unclear. The EU is also urging Ukraine to fight corruption with more determination. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports published by major international think tanks on the situation in Ukraine and its relations with the EU.

Briefing

The Democratic Transition in Guinea Reaches a Critical Point

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 30-05-2013

Author: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL

Policy area: Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Security and Defence | Human Rights
Keyword: development policy | political opposition | political situation | mining industry | independence of the judiciary | organisation of elections | impunity | democratisation | political violence | armed forces | Guinea | human rights

Summary: The optimism that Guineans and their international partners felt two and a half years ago, when the country's junta was replaced by an elected president, has largely given way to frustration and confrontation. The organisation of the long-overdue legislative elections has become the central source of disagreement between the government and the opposition, and protests have grown increasingly violent. Despite international mediation, cross-party dialogue is almost non-existent, and the growing tension may derail the transition and even threaten the country's stability. This is particularly dangerous given Guinea's institutional fragility, exacerbated by political turbulence and violent episodes — most notably, the massacre at the national stadium in Conakry on 28 September 2009, when over 150 people were killed. Despite some progress under the new government, the current impasse is undermining the urgently needed security sector reform, the fight against impunity and planned investments in the country's crucial mining sector.
CETA ratification process: Recent developments

**Publication type** At a Glance  
**Date** 21-06-2017  
**Policy area** International Trade | Foreign Affairs  
**Keyword** Wallon region (Belgium) | France | Germany | ratification of an agreement | regional parliament | investment protection | Belgium | trade agreement (EU) | Canada | EU legal system | control of constitutionality | interim agreement (EU)

**Summary** On 28 October 2016, the Council decided to sign the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), and on 15 February 2017 the European Parliament gave its consent to the agreement's conclusion. As CETA is a mixed agreement, the EU Member States are currently in the process of ratifying it in accordance with their constitutional requirements. Only after all have done so, can the Council adopt a decision to conclude CETA, after which the agreement will enter into force.

At a Glance EN
Syrian crisis: Impact on Turkey - From mediation to crisis management

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 03-04-2017
Author: Philippe PERCHOC
Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: visa policy | Turkey | Syria | bilateral relations | terrorism | Russia | migrant | civil war | refugee | religious fundamentalism | international conflict
Summary: After decades of mistrust between Ankara and Damascus, a solid partnership emerged in the 2000s. Turkey considered Syria to be the key to its influence in the Middle East. However, when protests started in 2011, the Turkish authorities launched repeated attempts at mediation, without success, leading to clear hostility on the part of the Turkish leadership towards the Syrian president. The Turkish objectives for Syria are several: settling the conflict, ensuring that the future arrangement excludes President Assad, creating a safe zone along the Turkish border and avoiding autonomy for Kurds in Syria. This led to military intervention to secure the borders in 2015, and a recent partnership with Russia and Iran in order to find a peace settlement, even if the three patrons of the recent Astana talks have diverging views about the future. For Turkey, Syria is an international problem but also an internal one, as it has been hit by deadly terrorist attacks by the Kurdish PKK and ISIL Daesh in the past two years. Another dimension of the Syrian issue for Ankara is the number of Syrian refugees in Turkey: with more than 3 million people making Turkey the country with the largest refugee population in the world. In December 2015, the EU signed a deal with Turkey to stem the flow of refugees heading to Europe, and the EU began to deliver a major €6 billion package to help Turkey cope with the crisis.

Wage and Income Inequality in the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-01-2015
External author: Christian DREGER (DIW Berlin); Enrique LOPEZ-BAZO, Raul RAMOS, Vicente ROYUELA and Jordi SURIÑACH (Barcelona University)
Policy area: European Semester | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: wage determination | low pay | collective bargaining | statistics | minimum pay | EU Member State | equal pay | outsourcing | technological change | distribution of income | globalisation
Summary: This report, provided by Policy Department A for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, summarises the results of the project “Wage Dispersion in the European Union”. It has three objectives: first, to describe the recent evolution of wage dispersion across EU member states using different definitions of labour earnings and inequality measures; second, to analyse the relationship between wage dispersion and labour market institutions related to collective bargaining and minimum wages taking into account recent policy reforms; and, last, to evaluate the impact of changes in wage inequality on overall income distribution in the EU.

Human rights in Russia

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 14-09-2016
Author: Martin RUSSELL
Policy area: Human Rights
Keyword: freedom of expression | ethnic discrimination | Chechen question | rights of minorities | bilateral relations | European Convention on Human Rights | rule of law | freedom of opinion | gender equality | human rights | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | non-governmental organisation | pluralism in the media | Russia | Caucasian countries
Summary: Russia is a signatory to several international human rights treaties and, as a member of the Council of Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights. Its constitution directly guarantees the human rights of Russian citizens, which are also protected by institutions such as a Human Rights Ombudsman and a Presidential Council. However, human rights situation in Russia is increasingly difficult. Repressive legislation adopted over the last few years has severely curtailed human rights by targeting freedom of expression and human rights activism. Western criticisms are dismissed by the Kremlin as interference in Russian domestic affairs. Human rights observers have compiled an extensive catalogue of abuses in Russia. These range from extrajudicial killings and inhuman treatment including torture, to confiscation of private property. A dysfunctional justice system denies Russians the right to a fair trial; ethnic minorities, women and LGBT persons are heavily disadvantaged; in practice and in some cases also in law. Some of the worst abuses in all these areas have occurred in the North Caucasus and Crimea, for example due to repression of the Crimean Tatar minority.
Deterrence of Fraud with EU Funds through Investigative Journalism in EU-27

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-08-2012

External author: Principal author: Margo Smit (Fonds Pascal Decroos, Vereniging van Onderzoeksjournalisten), Co-authors: Brigitte Aifter, Mar Cabra, Annamarie Cumiskey, Ides Debruyn, Marcos García Rey, Rafael Njotea, Albrecht Ude

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Culture | Budgetary Control
Keyword: European Anti-fraud Office | pluralism in the media | broadcasting | fraud | press | freedom of communication | fund (EU) | audit | corruption | access to EU information

Summary: The study depicts the state of investigative journalism in the 27 EU member states, with a focus on Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Spain, UK and a special focus on the interaction between European institutions and investigative journalists. It illustrates conditions promoting or impeding good investigative journalism in general, and in particular for reporting on fraud with EU funds and revenues. It recommends: a swift implementation of workable freedom of information laws across the EU, comprehensiveness of data provided by EU bodies and member states on their spending, targeted training for journalists, promotion of investigative centres and more cooperation between journalists and officials at EU and national levels, this in view of advanced transparency and helping citizens to understand the added value of EU spending.

Study EN

A Comparative Study on the Regime of Surrogacy in EU Member States

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-05-2013

External author: Laurence BRUNET (Lead - Université Paris I), Janeen CARRUTHERS (University of Glasgow), Konstantina DAVAKI (London School of Economics), Derek KING (London School of Economics), Claire MARZO (London School of Economics) and Julie MCCANDLESS (London School of Economics)

Keyword: legal status | case-law | descendant | surrogate mother | EU Member State | parental authority | comparative study | EU competence | children's rights | gender equality | private international law

Summary: This study provides a preliminary overview of the wide range of policy concerns relating to surrogacy as a practice at national, European and global level. It undertakes an extensive examination of national legal approaches to surrogacy. It also analyses existing European Union law and the law of the European Convention of Human Rights to determine what obligations and possibilities surround national and transnational surrogacy. The study concludes that it is impossible to indicate a particular legal trend across the EU, however all Member States appear to agree on the need for a child to have clearly defined legal parents and civil status.

Study EN

Executive summary: ES, DE, FR, IT

European Leadership in 5G

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-11-2016

External author: Colin BLACKMAN (Camford Associates Ltd; CEPS) and Simon FORGE (SCF Associates Ltd.)

Policy area: Research Policy | Forward Planning | Industry
Keyword: digital single market | public-private partnership | transmission network | EU programme | mobile communication | Internet | industrial investment | information technology | telecommunications industry | mobile phone | innovation | electronic device | digital technology | new technology

Summary: Prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), this report examines the concept for 5G, how it might fit in the future telecommunications landscape, the state of play in R&D in the EU and globally, the possible business models and the role of standards and spectrum policy, to assess the EU’s strategic position.

In-Depth Analysis EN
Challenges for EU cohesion policy: Issues in the forthcoming post-2020 reform

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-02-2017
Author: Vasileios MARGARAS
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: digital single market | European Structural and Investment Funds | EAFRD | macroeconomics | European Social Fund | Cohesion Fund | European Regional Development Fund | European Semester | partnership | multiannual financial framework
Summary: In a 2015 speech, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Creţu, re-ignited the debate on the post-2020 cohesion policy reform by suggesting ten main issues for future reflection. One issue is about how the EU’s cohesion policy can best contribute to its two objectives: competitiveness and cohesion. Finding the most efficient form of support is an important point of reflection: should it be grants, repayable assistance, financial instruments, or possibly a mix of all of these along with further thematic concentration? In addition, the way that cohesion policy addresses new or growing challenges (such as migration) is widely debated. Other issues to consider are simplification of policy for beneficiaries, the importance of achieving better governance, and the contribution of cohesion policy to the EU’s economic governance. Another topic deals with the best way to support lagging regions. Special attention is also paid to the role of the urban dimension in cohesion policy. How cohesion policy can best support growth, jobs and innovation outside heavily populated areas and in regions with special geographical characteristics is also another issue of discussion in policy circles. Last but not least, the method of allocation of cohesion policy funds is another thought-provoking topic. In a 2016 speech, the Commissioner focused on four main areas: flexibility, performance, economic governance along with structural reforms, and simplification. Since then, the issue of Brexit has further complicated discussions regarding the future of cohesion policy. The departure of the UK from the EU may have a significant impact on the EU budget and consequently on the financial envelope for cohesion policy. This briefing is an update of an earlier edition, published in May 2016.

An evolutionary path towards a European Monetary Fund?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 03-05-2017
External author: Daniel Gros (Centre for European Policy Studies)
Policy area: European Semester | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: financial supervision | economic governance (EU) | EU banking union | public debt | monetary crisis | International Monetary Fund | financial stability | European Stability Mechanism
Summary: There is no need for Europe to replicate the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) can provide the backstop for sovereigns, even without a financial contribution from the IMF. In this sense, the ESM already constitutes to a large extent a ‘European Monetary Fund’. Other IMF functions such as surveillance and policy coordination should remain with the European Commission, the Eurogroup and other existing bodies. The ESM will be called upon to act as a backstop only intermittently, in times of great financial market instability. The need for it will evolve as a function of the nature of financial markets and their cross-border integration. It is not possible to forecast with any precision when the next financial crisis might break out and what form it will take. Any evolution in the functioning of the ESM should thus aim at enhancing flexibility and clarity of its overall mandate (financial stability), rather than revising the details of the rescue mechanism (which should be extended to the Single Resolution Fund) and its modus operandi. Moreover, the ESM should be viewed as the natural instrument for unifying the euro area’s representation in the IMF.

The Impacts of Visa Liberalisation in Eastern Partnership Countries, Russia and Turkey on Trans-Border Mobility

Publication type: Study
Date: 11-03-2014
External author: Raül Hernández i Sagrera (Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals - IBEI)
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: visa policy | political asylum | EU relations | administrative formalities | Turkey | Russia | frontier migration | Western Balkans | CIS countries | Schengen Agreement | external border of the EU
Summary: Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this study examines the Schengen Visa liberalisation in the Eastern Partnership countries, Russia and Turkey which has proven to have a huge transformative potential across the justice, liberty and security policies of the countries where it has been deployed. Far-reaching technical reforms in the fields of document security, irregular migration and border management, public order security and fundamental rights have to be implemented so that visa-free travel can be allowed. Evidence provided by visa applications data reveals that visa liberalisation is a logical step, provided that the technical reforms are adopted and implemented. This study analyses the current state of play of the implementation of the EU visa policy instruments and assesses the positive impact of visa-free travel on trans-border mobility according to current visa application statistics.

Briefing ES, EN, FR

In-Depth Analysis EN

ES, EN, FR

Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
Citizens’ Agora: ‘Crises and poverty’ - background papers for the working groups

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-12-2010
Author: Arttu MAKIPAA, Moira ANDREANELLI, Laurence SMAJDA, Balazs MELLAR
Keyword: social impact, poverty, European social policy, information technology, EU migration policy, job creation, economic recession, anti-crisis plan, investment, social integration
Summary: Working Group 1 - Economic and financial crises and new forms of poverty
Working Group 2 - The impact of the economic and financial crisis on migration and social integration
Working Group 3 - Challenges for a Model of European Society: Towards a sustainable and inclusive growth model

Quality traineeships: Facilitating young people's transition to employment

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 19-12-2013
Author: Ron DAVIES
Policy area: Employment, Education
Keyword: pay, youth unemployment, traineeship, integration into employment, professional experience, youth employment, working conditions, professional qualifications, EU statistics
Summary: By providing opportunities in a real work situation to acquire valuable skills and learn appropriate behaviour, traineeships can help young people make the transition from education or unemployment to permanent work. However, traineeships often suffer from poor quality. A proposed Recommendation aims to increase transparency and encourage mobility.

Women's Entrepreneurship: Closing the Gender Gap in Access to Financial and Other Services and in Social Entrepreneurship

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2015
External author: Katie McCracken, Sergio Marquez, Dr. Caleb Kwong, Professor Ute Stephan, Aston Business School, Adriana Castagnoli and Marie Dlouhá
Keyword: sexual discrimination, Czechia, United Kingdom, entrepreneur, entrepreneurship, position of women, case study, Sweden, social economy, gender equality, Italy, corporate finance
Summary: This study explores differences between men and women entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs. It explores the barriers and discriminatory effects that hinder women’s entrepreneurship, including access to finance in the European Union. The study includes four case studies covering the situation in the Czech Republic, Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

The Role of the Social Protection as Economic Stabiliser: Lessons from the Current Crisis

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-12-2010
External author: Werner Eichhorst (IZA), Mathias Dolls (IZA), Paul Marx (IZA), Andreas Peichl (IZA), Stefan Ederer (WIFO), Thomas Leoni (WIFO), Markus Marterbauer (WIFO), Lukas Tockner (WIFO), Gaetano Basso (FRDB), Maarten Gerard (IDEA), Ingrid Vanhoren (IDEA) and Connie Nielsen (NIRAS)
Policy area: Social Policy, Employment, Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: social policy, economic stabilisation, fiscal policy, economic recession, fight against unemployment, social security legislation, guaranteed income, unemployment insurance
Summary: Social protection, in particular unemployment benefits, minimum income support and progressive taxation, have significantly contributed to reducing the depth and the duration of the current recession in EU Member States and to stabilising labour markets and consumption. Not only does social protection provide a safety net for those groups which have been hit hardest by the crisis, it has also a stabilising effect on the overall demand for goods and services produced in the economy. Discretionary action in the field of social and labour market policy, pursued in most European economies, included a broad range of measures, such as employment incentives, higher benefits and increased transfers to low-income households. Further action, however, is needed to overcome inequalities in access to social protection faced by non-standard workers, and in designing a suitable exit strategy from discretionary stimulus in order to limit the fiscal constraints generated by anti-crisis policies.
A New European Union Development Cooperation Policy with Latin America

Publication type: Study  
Date: 20-12-2011

External author: MORAZÁN Pedro (SÜDWIND Institute, Germany), FIAPP (International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies, Madrid, Spain); SANAHUJA José Antonio (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain) and AYLLÓN Bruno (IUDG-UCM, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain)

Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Regional Development | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: South-South cooperation | the EU's international role | regional cooperation | development aid | economic integration | association agreement (EU) | aid evaluation | social integration | Latin America

Summary: This study contains an analysis of the key principles of the European Union’s development cooperation policy with Latin America. The following issues are of particular importance: i) The relevance of cooperation with middle-income countries, especially those in Latin America and the Caribbean. ii) The objectives that the EU’s development cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean should pursue. iii) The alignment of the regional integration process with the wide range of existing realities and strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean. iv) The promotion of social cohesion policies as one of the core components of the EU’s development policy. v) The strategies complementary to the EU’s development policy and South-South cooperation.

Study: ES, EN

Executive summary: DE, FR

Fighting conflict-related sexual violence

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 08-12-2016

Author: Ionel ZAMFIR

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights

Summary: Although both men and women are vulnerable when faced with armed conflict, they tend to be affected very differently. Women are exposed to many risks, sexual violence standing out as the most prominent among them. Despite efforts by the international community to ban it through internationally binding legal norms, conflicts since the end of the Cold War have displayed multiple, horrendous forms of violence against women, whether in Africa, former Yugoslavia or in present-day Iraq, Syria and Nigeria. To the scourge of gender-based violence brought about by conflict, the international community has responded by integrating it in the jurisdiction of international tribunals dealing with war crimes. The UN Security Council has strongly condemned all forms of gender-based violence in several resolutions, and has proposed a range of measures. Given the gravity of the crimes, the EU has emphasised the importance of a zero-tolerance policy, focusing on accountability and awareness-raising. Helping victims of gender-based violence deal with its long-lasting psychological and social consequences is increasingly recognised as a crucial measure. One of the most important steps is to break the culture of shame and silence that makes the vast majority of cases go unreported, and renders judicial recourse impossible. Women who speak out about their or others’ ordeals face multiple risks and threats, and their courage deserves to be honoured. In recognition of such courage, the European Parliament granted the 2016 Sakharov Prize to two women from Iraq, who, having been victims of violence themselves, resolved to put their efforts into fighting off the scourge.

Briefing: EN

The Employment and Social Situation in the UK with a Focus on Migration of Workers and their Social Protection

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 14-06-2013

External author: Will Somerville and Brhmie Balaram

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Social Policy | Employment

Keyword: wage determination | labour market | United Kingdom | economic growth | migration | vocational training | employment policy | unemployment | social rights | economic recession | social security | welfare

Summary: This briefing paper provides an overview of the UK's economic growth, employment and wage situation, the UK's recent social and economic reforms and the major issues in the public debate. The notes then focuses on patterns of migration, the rights framework for EU and non-EU migrants, recent policy changes affecting migrants living in the UK and finally key issues in the public debate related to migrants and migration.

In-Depth Analysis: EN

Executive summary: FR

Regional efforts to fight Boko Haram

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 13-02-2017

Author: Ionel ZAMFIR

Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword: humanitarian aid | Nigeria | cross-border cooperation | West Africa | violence | extremism | terrorism | civilian victim | military cooperation | religious fundamentalism | African Union

Summary: The cross-border dimension of the Boko Haram insurgency – one of the world's deadliest terrorist groups – has compelled the countries in the Lake Chad basin to coordinate their fight against it. Launched in 2014, the Multinational Joint Task Force has weakened the group, without fully defeating it. The acute humanitarian situation calls for an approach that goes beyond military intervention. This 'at a glance' note updates a previous edition from March 2015.

At a Glance: EN
Plight of the Rohingya minority in Myanmar/Burma
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 06-02-2017
Author: Martin RUSSELL
Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: poverty | aid to refugees | military regime | the EU's international role | ethnic discrimination | Burma/Myanmar | Muslim religious discrimination | ethnic cleansing | protection of minorities | repression | human rights
Summary: The brutal military crackdown since October 2016 in Myanmar/Burma's Rakhine State has highlighted the tragic situation of Muslim Rohingya, often described as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. Deprived of citizenship and basic freedoms at home, those who risk their lives to escape can at best hope for a precarious existence abroad.

Empowering women on the Internet
Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 30-10-2015
Author: Ottavio MARZOCCHI
Policy area: Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment
Keyword: sexual harassment | computer crime | Internet | access to information | the EU's international role | impact of information technology | telecommunications industry | entrepreneurship | position of women | trafficking in human beings | gender equality
Summary: Upon request of the FEMM Committee, the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs examined the actions taken at the international and European level to empower women on the Internet. The research aims at exploring the opportunities, risks/threats and challenges for women in relation to the digital world and the Internet, notably in the areas of employment, entrepreneurship, cyber-activism, stereotyping, harassment, sexual violence and trafficking/modern slavery.

East Africa: Competing Dynamics in a Rapidly Changing Region
Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 17-01-2014
Author: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL
Policy area: Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Keyword: regional security | piracy | EU relations | political situation | terrorism | African organisation | East Africa | economic integration | social situation | rule of law | human rights
Summary: The violence that has engulfed South Sudan since mid-December 2013 and the neighbouring countries’ reactions to the bloodshed largely reflect the dynamics underlying the East African region. Whilst many countries in the region enjoy abundant natural resources (including oil) and have recorded strong economic growth, they have failed to bring about structural transformations or to spur sustainable development. Among the many obstacles preventing East Africa from fulfilling its full potential, two of the most important are poor governance and armed conflict – both evident in South Sudan, as well as Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. Given the cross-border nature of economic, social and political dynamics in East Africa, advancing regional integration is necessary to promote political stability and socioeconomic development. Investing in regional infrastructure projects is one of the priorities of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for 2014-2020. The EU should also continue to engage with regional organisations to foster economic and political cooperation in various areas, including peace and security, when these can play an important role. The mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in South Sudan is a strong example of the need to involve regional actors in finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to armed conflict.

The Policy on Gender Equality in Belgium - Update 2015
Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 10-06-2015
External author: Erika Schulze, Willemijn de Jong, Yana Hadjihristova, Isabel Scott, Julia Linares and D. Ghailani
Keyword: sexual discrimination | leave on social grounds | domestic violence | position of women | trafficking in human beings | Belgium | female work | gender equality | regional law | development policy | national law | equal treatment | equal pay | child care | participation of women | decision-making
Summary: Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this in-depth analysis provides an overview of the existing gender equality legislation, policies and practices in Belgium. The note discusses gender equality in decision making, employment, reconciliation of work and family life, eradication of violence against women, and breaking down gender stereotypes.
The TTIP’s Potential Impact on Developing Countries: A Review of Existing Literature and Selected Issues

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 29-04-2015  
Author: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL | Elfriede BIERBRAUER | Marika LERCH

Policy area: International Trade | Development and Humanitarian Aid  
Keyword: trade by group of countries | United States | generalised preferences | suspension of customs duties | developing countries | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | trading operation | impact study | economic consequence | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | trade agreement (EU) | geopolitics

Summary: The position and concerns of developing countries have only belatedly entered the discussion over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). While poor countries may gain much from the positive effects of the TTIP, their precarious positions mean that they may be less able to react and adapt to negative consequences. The EU is required to assess the development effects of its policies, including trade policies, by the Lisbon Treaty. Although the shape and scope of the final TTIP agreement is not yet known, economic analyses have identified different ways in which it could affect developing countries and influence the global trading system. Several economic studies have also attempted to measure the possible outcomes for different countries and regions. While it appears that the negative impact of trade diversion and preference erosion is likely to be small, there may be notable exceptions, including risks to the position of some countries in international value chains. Proposals to address such negative consequences include concrete measures for affected countries, such as extending unilateral preferences and shaping the TTIP in such a way as to facilitate positive effects. Extending the principle of mutual recognition or equivalence to third parties and defining liberal rules of origin in the agreement are particularly important.

In-Depth Analysis  EN

Setting up a system of benchmarking to measure the success of integration policies in Europe

Publication type: Study  
Date: 03-01-2007  
External author: Jan Niessen and Thomas Huddleston, with Nele Verbruggen and Mary Ann Kate

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Social Policy  
Keyword: integration of migrants | benchmarking | migrant | rights of the individual | social integration

Study  EN, FR

EU Policies in Tunisia before and after the Revolution

Publication type: Study  
Date: 21-04-2016  
External author: Rym AYADI (International Institute for Cooperatives at HEC Montreal and Founding President of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association - EMEA) and Emanuele SESSA (Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association)

Policy area: Democracy | Foreign Affairs  
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | EU policy | political situation | sustainable development | EU programme | economic reform | Tunisia | political violence | Union for the Mediterranean | political reform | EU financial instrument | democratisation | association agreement (EU) | civil society

Summary: This study investigates the evolution and potential impacts of EU policies in Tunisia before and after the Revolution using an innovative analytical framework. To do that, the most important milestones in the frameworks of cooperation agreed between the EU and Tunisia and the policies implemented, are described. The impact of such policies before the Revolution and their subsequent evolution, are analysed to highlight the causes and the consequences of the shifting approach of the EU towards Tunisia. Finally, the analysis is complemented with inputs collected via a consultation from key participants across the Tunisian political and civil society landscape. In the pre-Revolution period, EU relations with Tunisia were narrowed down to an exchange of commercial, financial and strategic interests, in line with most development aid programmes across the world. The Tunisian Revolution brought two fundamental dynamics – democratisation and destabilisation – which had broad repercussions on the relations between Tunisia and the EU. These dynamics enhanced the probability of more synergies and complementarities between the two partners’ political projects and the necessity to strengthen financial support, providing the EU with a window of opportunity for enhanced cooperation, underlined in a win-win philosophy, co-development and deeper integration.

Study  EN, FR

Research for TRAN Committee - Tourism and the Sharing Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for the EU

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-10-2015  
External author: Paul Peeters, Corné Dijkmans, Ondrej Mitas, Boukje Strous and Jeroen Vinkenstijn

Policy area: Transport | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice  
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | EU competition policy | barter | Internet | impact of information technology | tourism policy | basis of tax assessment | tax | hotel industry | economic analysis

Summary: The impacts, challenges and opportunities caused by the fast-growing sharing economy in tourism are assessed. The report describes the definition, size, and development of the sharing (or collaborative) economy, assessing the (dis-)advantages for the tourism sector, concluding with policy analysis and recommendations. Large parts of the sharing economy are affecting the tourism sector, although its share is very small. The main challenges are taxation and regulation; main opportunities are the innovative power and enhanced competition.

Study  EN
Country Report on Portugal for the Study on Member States’ Policies for Children with Disabilities

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-12-2014
External author: Paola Pinto
Keyword: application of the law | family law | child protection | international law - national law | children’s rights | care of the disabled | UN convention | access to education | social legislation | national law | Portugal | discrimination based on disability | legal action | integration of the disabled
Summary: Upon request of the LIBE committee, this study looks at the situation of children with disabilities in Portugal to identify the gaps in the legal framework and its implementation, the obstacles faced by children with disabilities and best practices. This country study is part of a larger study which analyses all the 28 Member States. In the first phase of the study, a comparative analysis has been drawn based on 18 of the country studies. In the second phase of this study, the situation in the remaining ten countries and Scotland has been analysed. The overall report “Member State Policies on Children with Disabilities” provides some recommendations for EU action to enhance the situation of children with disabilities.

Study: EN, PT

Challenges for EU cohesion policy: Issues in the forthcoming post-2020 reform

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 10-05-2016
Author: Vasileios MARGARAS
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: structural adjustment | EU financing arrangements | economic governance (EU) | less-favoured region | economic and social cohesion | administrative formalities | Cohesion Fund | EU growth strategy | economic indicator | town planning | regional development
Summary: In a 2015 speech, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Creţu, re-ignited the debate on the post-2020 cohesion policy reform by suggesting ten main issues for future reflection. Many of them are already prominent in discussions amongst European, local and regional policy-makers. One such issue is about the way the EU’s cohesion policy can best contribute to its two complementary objectives: competitiveness and cohesion. Another issue concerns the best way to support lagging regions, especially those which, in spite of decades of EU support, have not converged towards the EU average. Yet another focuses on whether cohesion policy should continue to invest in advanced EU regions, especially in wealthy metropolitan ones. The way cohesion policy can better support growth, jobs and innovation outside heavily populated areas and regions with special geographical characteristics, is also a dominant issue of discussions in policy circles. Special attention is also paid to the role of the urban dimension in cohesion policy. Finding the most efficient form of support is an important point of reflection: should it be grants, repayable assistance, financial instruments, or possibly a mix of all of these along with further thematic concentration? In addition, the way that cohesion policy addresses new or growing challenges (such as energy security, migration and the digital economy) is widely debated. Other issues to consider are the simplification of policy for beneficiaries, the importance of achieving better governance and the contribution of cohesion policy to the EU’s economic governance. Last but not least, the method of allocation of cohesion policy funds is another thought-provoking issue.

Briefing: EN, FR
Multimedia: EN

Enhancing EU Action to Support Universal Standards for Women’s Rights During Democratic Transitions - The Case of Democratic Transition in the MENA Region

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-11-2012
External author: Researches supervised and conducted by : Kalliope Agapiou-Josephides (University of Cyprus) and Florence Benoît-Rohmer (University of Strasbourg). Primary contributions from : Annette Jünenmann (Helmut Schmidt Universität - Universität der Bundeswehr Hamburg), Roberta Aluffi (University of Tübingen), Leila Jordens-Cotran (Arab Dutch Law) and Christina Kalli (University of Cyprus). Contribution in the compilation of the research report : Kypros Savva (University of Cyprus).
Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: sexual discrimination | North Africa | sexual violence | democracy | participation of women | democratisation | women’s rights | Middle East | human rights
Summary: This study is devoted to providing an analysis of the policy initiatives and recent research while also assessing the possibilities for entry points relevant to the enhancement of EU action to support universal standards for promoting women’s rights in the context of democratic transitions. The authors share the view that women’s rights will be the litmus test of a successful democratic transition. They explore and analyse the gender dimension in the context of democratic transition processes, with a special focus on current sociopolitical changes taking place in the MENA region. This is done with special attention to women’s political participation to show the importance of gender-responsive legislation, constitutions and accountability systems. In this regard transitional violence against women is treated as a cross cutting issue affecting women in the region and preventing them from enjoying their rights in all areas of public life and from influencing the political agendas. This study explores the initiatives taken so far on women’s rights by international organisations and the authors attempt to map the EU instruments and entry points for further action. Finally, the study provides a list of pragmatic recommendations to the EU as an external promoter of democracy and gender equality.

Study: EN
The Lisbon Treaty's Provisions on CFSP/CSDP - State of Implementation

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 02-10-2015
Author: Wanda TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN

Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: the EU's international role | powers of the EP | Treaty on European Union | EU Member State | mutual assistance | common foreign and security policy | agreement (EU) | external competence (EU) | European External Action Service | military cooperation | enhanced cooperation | EU competence | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary
Since the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force in December 2009, major efforts have been made to implement the new institutional set-up it created: the EU has acquired legal personality, the post of Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has been created, the European External Action Service has been operationalised, and the EU Delegations around the world have boosted the EU's presence and increased diplomatic and policy outreach. The European Parliament has also acquired a greater role thanks to the Lisbon Treaty, particularly in the fields of foreign policy oversight and budgetary scrutiny. Nevertheless, many provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, designed to provide a boost to foreign, security and defence policies, remain non-implemented owing to a lack of political support stemming from the fears of some EU Member States of the creation of a 'two-speed Europe' and loss of control over these fields in favour of the EU institutions.

In-Depth Analysis EN

Why Has ECB's Very Accommodative Monetary Policy Not Yet Triggered a Rebound of Investment?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-06-2016
External author: Christophe BLOT, Jérôme CREEL, Paul HUBERT and Fabien LABONDANCE (OFCE, Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Économiques, France); Nils JANNSEN and Martin PLODT (Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Germany); Jacob KIRKEGAARD PIIE (Peterson Institute for International Economics); Karl WHELAN (University of Dublin, Ireland)

Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: private investment | Economic and Monetary Union | bond | public debt | euro area | European Central Bank | price stability | interest | monetary policy

Summary
This compilation of notes requested by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) for the June 2016 Monetary Dialogue looks into the key factors which are holding back investment in the euro area notwithstanding a very loose monetary policy stance.

In-Depth Analysis EN

Industry 4.0: Digitalisation for productivity and growth

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 22-09-2015
Author: Ron DAVIES

Policy area: Industry
Keyword: quality standard | public-private partnership | industrial development | EU industrial policy | modernisation of industry | industrial investment | impact of information technology | updating of skills | job creation | innovation | harmonisation of standards | communications industry | intellectual property

Summary
Many observers believe that Europe is at the beginning of a new industrial revolution, considered to be the fourth such leap forward and hence labelled Industry 4.0. The ubiquitous use of sensors, the expansion of wireless communication and networks, the deployment of increasingly intelligent robots and machines – as well as increased computing power at lower cost and the development of "big data" analytics – has the potential to transform the way goods are manufactured in Europe. This new, digital industrial revolution holds the promise of increased flexibility in manufacturing, mass customisation, increased speed, better quality and improved productivity. However to capture these benefits, enterprises will need to invest in equipment, information and communication technologies (ICTs) and data analysis as well as the integration of data flows throughout the global value chain. The EU supports industrial change through its industrial policy and through research and infrastructure funding. Member States are also sponsoring national initiatives such as Industrie 4.0 in Germany, the Factory of the Future in France and Italy, and Catapult centres in the UK. However challenges remain. The need for investment, changing business models, data issues, legal questions of liability and intellectual property, standards, and skills mismatches are among the challenges that must be met if benefits are to be gained from new manufacturing and industrial technologies. If these obstacles can be overcome, Industry 4.0 may help to reverse the past decline in industrialisation and increase total value added from manufacturing to a targeted 20% of all value added by 2020. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format

Briefing EN
New Approaches, Alternative Avenues and Means of Access to Asylum Procedures for Persons Seeking International Protection

Publication type: Study  
Date: 23-10-2014  
External author: Elspeth Guild (Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS, Brussels, Belgium), Cathryn Costello (Oxford University, the UK), Madeline Garlick (Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands), Violeta Moreno-Lax (University of London, the UK), Minos Mouzourakis (Oxford University, the UK) and Sergio Carrera (Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS)  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice  
Keyword: political refugee | political asylum | access to the courts | administrative formalities | refugee | social facilities | European Asylum Support Office | human rights  
Summary: Upon request by the LIBE committee, this study examines the workings of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), in order to assess the need and potential for new approaches to ensure access to protection for people seeking it in the EU, including joint processing and distribution of asylum seekers. Rather than advocating the addition of further complexity and coercion to the CEAS, the study proposes a focus on front-line reception and streamlined refugee status determination, in order to mitigate the asylum challenges facing Member States, and guarantee the rights of asylum seekers and refugees according to the EU acquis and international legal standards.

Afghanistan and Central Asia: Prospects and Challenges after Withdrawal of NATO/ISAF Forces

Publication type: Study  
Date: 27-01-2015  
External author: Steven BLOCKMANS (CEPS, Belgium), Rebecca DAVIS (CEPS, Belgium), Seed PARTO (Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organisation, Afghanistan), Rachel REID (Open Society Foundations) and Hekmat Khalil KARZAI (Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies, Afghanistan)  
Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Human Rights  
Keyword: humanitarian aid | governance | Afghanistan | EU aid | political situation | public safety | development aid | health aid | common foreign and security policy | aid evaluation | women's rights | economic reconstruction  
Summary: This publication includes a study on "Assessment of EU Support to Afghanistan for the Last Decade and Lessons Learnt for the Future", and presentations from three experts on related subjects.

Refugee and asylum policy in Australia: Between resettlement and deterrence

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 10-11-2016  
Author: Ionel ZAMFIR  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights  
Keyword: border control | political asylum | third country | Australia | immigration | bilateral relations | refugee | foreign national | human rights  
Summary: Australia has established a refugee policy which has proved highly effective in deterring irregular migrants, but has attracted much criticism from human rights organisations. Its main drivers have been mandatory detention and offshore processing of irregular asylum-seekers arriving by boat. Since it was enacted, drownings at sea no longer occur and irregular migration by boat to its shores has completely stopped. However, the conditions in the offshore centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea, where people arriving by boat have been sent, have been criticised as inappropriate by civil society organisations, and these people's indefinite detention there was deemed to constitute arbitrary detention under international law. Further to such criticism, recently, the two countries have decided to allow asylum-seekers to move freely and, if determined to be refugees, to settle in the community. However, the situation of the refugees in the two countries remains extremely precarious and no lasting solution is yet in sight, despite Australia’s efforts to secure resettlement agreements with other third countries. At the same time, Australia has remained open to asylum-seekers and refugees who enter through official channels, and is one of the countries admitting most refugees resettled through the UNHCR. This briefing is an extended and updated version of an earlier publication, from October 2015.
**Women in Low-Skill Work**

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 24-05-2007  
**External author:** Bettina Hieming, Karen Jaehrling, Thorsten Kalina and Claudia Weinkopf (Institut Arbeit und Qualifikation - IAQ at Universität Duisburg-Essen); in collaboration with Damian Grimshaw, Jill Rubery and Nirit Schimron (European Work and Employment Research Centre - EWERC at the Manchester Business School, University of Manchester) and Oleksandr Stupnytskyy (Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs - RILSA, Prague)  
**Policy area:** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment  
**Keyword:** working time | labour market | female worker | vocational training | part-time employment | child care | remuneration of work | participation of women | female work | unskilled worker  
**Summary:** This study, focusing on the Czech Republic, Germany and the UK, provides a description as well as a quantified analysis of the occupational cluster of low-skill work from a gender perspective and presents best practices in the various national contexts and sectors that have helped to increase the positive perception of low-skill work, as well as its social and economic recognition.  
**Study** DE, EN

**Public and Commercial Models of Access in the Digital Era**

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 15-04-2013  
**External author:** Claudio Feijoo, Sven Lindmark, Juan Pablo Villar, Carlota Tarín, Javier Gelabert and Beatriz Matía  
**Policy area:** Culture  
**Keyword:** dissemination of information | digitisation | audiovisual industry | information policy | copyright | programmes industry | Internet | information technology | impact of information technology | publishing | commercial media | public institution | audiovisual communications policy  
**Summary:** This study provides an overview of the status and potential evolution of how content is delivered to the wider public in Europe, including the experience of the public sector and commercial providers. On the base of problems and causes identified, a series of recommendations are made to respond to the challenges of the digital era regarding access to content in Europe.  
**Study** DE, EN, FR

**Criteria for Allocating Access to Fishing in the EU**

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 16-03-2015  
**External author:** Roland BLOMEYER, Fernando NIETO, Antonio SANZ, Kim STOBBERUP and Karim ERZINI  
**Policy area:** Fisheries  
**Keyword:** Spain | fishing rights | corporate social responsibility | social indicator | fishery management | fishing industry | common fisheries policy | catch quota | Denmark | economic indicator | environmental indicator  
**Summary:** This study proposes a set of criteria and indicators for the purpose of allocating fishing opportunities in EU Member States, which according to Article 17 of the new CFP should include those of an environmental, social and economic nature. The proposed criteria and indicators should be applicable in a wide range of circumstances therefore the term allocation in this study should be understood in a broad sense referring to any aspect of giving access to fishing opportunities.  
**Study** EN

**International Agreements in Progress: EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement**

**Publication type:** Briefing  
**Date:** 13-10-2016  
**Author:** Martin RUSSELL  
**Policy area:** International Trade | Foreign Affairs | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
**Summary:** The recently negotiated free trade agreement (FTA) with Vietnam has been described as the most ambitious deal of its type ever concluded between the EU and a developing country. Not only will it eliminate over 99% of customs duties on goods, it will also open up Vietnamese services markets to EU companies and strengthen protection of EU investments in the country. According to European Commission figures, the FTA could boost Vietnam’s booming economy by as much as 15% of GDP, with Vietnamese exports to Europe growing by over one third. For the EU, the agreement is an important stepping stone to a wider EU-south-east Asia trade deal. Despite the obvious economic benefits of the FTA for Vietnam, some of its more vulnerable manufacturing sectors may suffer from competition with the EU. NGOs have also criticised the EU for pursuing closer ties with a politically repressive regime known for its human rights abuses, although the deal includes some safeguards against negative outcomes. Although the content of the FTA has been agreed, its precise wording is still being checked. The finalised text is likely to be presented to the European Parliament for consent in 2017. If the FTA is deemed to be a ‘mixed agreement’, it will have to be ratified not only by the EU but also by the 28 Member States. First edition. The ‘International Agreements in Progress’ briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification.  
**Briefing** EN
Will Development in East Africa be Fossil-Fuelled?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 02-07-2014
Author: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL
Policy area: Energy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: governance | management of resources | economic development | trade relations | Tanzania | Kenya | oil industry | foreign investment | energy policy | supervisory body | gas field | gas industry | environmental impact | economic situation
Summary: East Africa is at a critical turning point in its development trajectory. The discovery of substantial reserves of crude oil (in Kenya and Uganda) and natural gas (in Mozambique and Tanzania) may bring billions of dollars in new revenues to the region. East African countries are currently drafting and implementing legislation, policies and infrastructure in this sector and should begin reaping the benefits of commercial production in the next four to ten years. Yet the experience of other resource-rich countries demonstrates that, without the appropriate safeguards, East Africa may miss the opportunity to use these revenues to promote inclusive growth. Countries in the region risk exacerbating inequality while encouraging corruption and other social and environmental problems. This question has importance well beyond the region’s borders. The global energy landscape is rapidly changing, and East Africa’s reserves will spur international companies to compete for their share of the profits. As a major trade partner and donor, the European Union should use its position to ensure that extractive industries’ activities are transparent and that countries strengthen their institutions and adopt pro-poor economic measures. Although the EU’s role in the region is being eroded by emerging actors, the Union still enjoys important leverage, which could be used to help East Africa’s transform its abundant natural resources into equitable growth and sustainable development.

Understanding Securitisation: Background – benefits – risks

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 14-10-2015
Author: Angelos DELIVORIAS
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: real estate credit | issue of securities | drafting of EU law | capital movement | investment promotion | financial legislation | monetary union | banking supervision | financial services | capital market
Summary: In the blame game that followed the recent financial crisis, securitisation was held up as one of the main culprits. This reputation, amongst other factors, translated into a significant drop in issuance since the crisis, both in Europe and in the US. Nevertheless, the true picture is more nuanced – although securitisation presents real risks, it can also bring benefits to issuers, investors and the economy in general. Given this, and in the context of the current low-growth economic environment, a simpler and more transparent form has been proposed by various stakeholders, in the context of the creation of the Capital Markets Union, as a way to boost the European economy.

Minorities in Iraq - Pushed to the brink of existence

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 11-02-2015
Author: Eric PICHON
Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: humanitarian aid | Iraq | the EU’s international role | freedom of religious beliefs | forced migration | national minority | religious discrimination | terrorism | Islam | religious group | religious fundamentalism
Summary: Iraqi minorities (Turkmens, Yazidis, Christians and other smaller communities) have long been discriminated against in Iraq. Violence against them has increased dramatically in areas of Iraqi territory that have fallen under the control of the Islamist terrorist group that has declared itself 'the Islamic State' (known variously as IS, ISIS or ISIL, and by the Arabic acronym 'Daesh' or 'Da’esh'). After coming into power, this terrorist group called into question the very existence of several of these minorities, not least non-Muslim minorities, subjecting them to murder, rape, slavery and organ trafficking. Fearing for their life, people have been fleeing in unprecedented numbers: mass killings have led to the displacement of more than 2 million people, mainly to refugee camps in the Kurdistan region, these displacements are tangible evidence that the country is going through a process of reconfiguration and fragmentation. Past experience has shown that few displaced people ever return to their homes.

Publication type Study
Date 05-03-2014
Author Joseph DUNNE
Policy area European Added Value | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword common commercial policy | company law | financial market | European tax cooperation | unemployment insurance | common security and defence policy | private international law | energy policy | coordination of aid | equal pay | EU research policy | common transport policy | deepening of the European Union
Summary This study brings together work-in-progress on a long-term project to identify and analyse the 'cost of non-Europe' in a number of policy fields. This concept, first pioneered by the European Parliament in the 1980s, is used here to quantify the potential efficiency gains in today's European economy from pursuing a series of policy initiatives recently advocated by the Parliament - from a wider and deeper digital single market to better coordinated national and European policies for defence and development. The benefits may be measured in additional GDP generated or a more rational use of public resources. The analysis so far suggests that the European economy could be boosted by some 800 billion euro - or six per cent of current GDP - by such measures over time. The study is intended as a contribution to the growing discussion about the European Union’s policy priorities for the coming five-year institutional cycle, from 2014 to 2019.

Study ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL

The situation of women on EU islands

Publication type Study
Date 15-05-2009
External author Terry Ward (team director), Nicole Fondeville-Gaoui (coordinator), Nirina Rabemifara and Fadila Sanoussi ; Maria Stratigaki (comments)
Policy area Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Education | Public Health
Keyword island region | organisation of health care | access to education | employment structure | economic and social cohesion | vocational training | job creation | position of women
Summary This study aims to provide an analysis of the situation of women living on EU islands focusing on the situation of women in fifteen island regions belonging to six member States (Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and Finland) and on three specific areas: the access to employment, education and healthcare. The objective of the study is to identify whether the situation of women living on islands is more difficult than that of women living on the mainland or than that of men living on islands.

Study EN, FR

The Maritime Dimension of CSDP: Geostrategic Maritime Challenges and their Implications for the European Union

Publication type Study
Date 29-01-2013
External author Timo BEHR, Jyrki KALLIO, Mika AALTOLA, Charly SALONIUS-PASTERNAK, Maija SALONEN (Finnish Intitute of International Affairs, Finland) , Erik BRATTBERG (Swedish Intitute of International Affairs, Sweden) , Andreas RASPOTNIK (Trans European Policy Studies Association, Belgium)
Policy area Transport | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword navy | piracy | maritime surveillance | West Africa | maritime transport | EU waters | EU financing | military cooperation | maritime safety | common security and defence policy
Summary The global maritime security environment is in the midst of an important transformation, driven by a simultaneous intensification of global maritime flows, the growing interconnectedness of maritime regions, the diffusion of maritime power to emerging powers, and the rise of a number of maritime non-state actors. These changes are having a profound impact on the maritime security environment of the EU and its member states and require an upgrading of the maritime dimension of the EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). This study analysis the impact that the changing maritime security context is having on the EU’s maritime neighbourhood and along the EU’s sea lines of communications (SLOCs) and takes stock of the EU’s existing policies and instruments in the maritime security domain. Based on this analysis, the study suggests that the EU requires a comprehensive maritime security strategy that creates synergies between the EU’s Integrated Maritime Policy and the maritime dimension of CSDP and that focuses more comprehensively on the security and management of global maritime flows and sea-based activities in the global maritime commons.

Study EN

An Evaluation of the Social and Employment Aspects and Challenges in Ireland

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-01-2014
External author Maarten Gerard and Jean-François Romainville (IDEA Consult)
Policy area Social Policy | Employment
Keyword poverty | labour market | national statistics | structural adjustment | unemployment | European Social Charter | social dialogue | social situation | Ireland | balance of payments assistance | higher education | economic recovery | labour standard | economic recession
Summary This policy note provides a brief evaluation of the social and employment situation in Ireland.

In-Depth Analysis EN
How to Integrate the EU Flagship Initiatives into Cohesion Policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2012

External author: Herta Tödtling–Schönhofer, Christine Hamza, Angelos Sanopoulos and Alice Radzyner (Metis GmbH), John Bachtler and Stefan Kah (EPRC, University of Strathclyde)

Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: Structural Funds | EU action | energy efficiency | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | EU growth strategy | regional and local authorities | innovation | digital technology

Summary: This study focuses on the Europe 2020 strategy with particular reference to its seven Flagship initiatives (Innovation Union, Digital Agenda, Industrial Policy, Resource-efficient Europe, Youth on the Move, New Skills and Jobs, and the European Platform against Poverty). It explores their coherence with Cohesion Policy with a view to the 2014-20 programming period and identifies ways of integrating the Flagship initiatives into the future Common Strategic Framework. Using a number of detailed case studies, the report thoroughly examines experience in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy in the context of the Structural Funds. Detailed roadmaps are provided for each Flagship initiative, indicating what, when, how and by whom actions should be carried out over short-, medium- and long-term perspectives. Lastly, the report delivers recommendations related to the implementation of the Flagship initiatives using Cohesion Policy instruments.

Study DE, EN, FR

Executive summary BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Annex I EN

Gender Quotas in Management Boards

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-02-2012

External author: Jo Armstrong and Sylvia Walby (UNESCO Chair in Gender Research Group, Lancaster University, Lancaster, the UK)

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment
Keyword: sexual discrimination | business policy | equal treatment | board of directors | gender equality

Summary: The note reviews the evidence on the effectiveness of legal instruments as compared with voluntary regimes in narrowing the gender gap on corporate management boards. It finds that legal instruments to enforce quotas are an effective and fast means of achieving change. The use of voluntary regimes has led to some increase in the proportion of women on corporate boards, but the effects are significantly smaller and slower. The only instance of achieving 40% of each gender was through the use of legal instruments to enforce quotas. The note identifies and reports on the positions and recommendations of nine international bodies on this matter.

Study EN

Executive summary DE, FR

European Union Development Strategy in the Pacific

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-04-2014

External author: Elodie FACHE (Aix-Marseille University, France), Toon VAN MEIJL (Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands), Sue FARRAN (Northumbria University, the UK) and Michael GOLDSMITH (Waikato University, New Zealand)

Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: island region | aid system | countries of the Pacific Community | EDF | ACP-EU relationship | economic planning | development policy | Pacific Islands Forum | Oceania | Cotonou Agreement | adaptation to climate change | geopolitics | Union delegation

Summary: Development in the Pacific region is uneven, multi-layered and challenging. The European Union's development cooperation with the Pacific is significant; in fact the EU is the second largest donor of development assistance to the region. This study, implemented by the European Consortium for Pacific Studies, analyses the current and future contexts for European Union engagement in development cooperation with the Pacific, and proposes elements of a renewed EU development strategy for the region. From a Pacific perspective, the question of defining a new EU development strategy is as much a matter of defining new and equal partnerships through which Pacific development strategies can be supported. Rising to the challenge of re-imagining EU-Pacific relations will require a good deal of work and reflection. The Pacific clearly constitutes a geopolitical context whose importance is markedly set to grow in significance, and there is a clear rationale for the EU to commit further resources to support its interests and activities in the region. In particular, the EU should enhance and deepen its institutional knowledge and means of drawing upon existing expertise on ‘Pacific Ways’.

Study EN, FR
China’s Foreign Policy and External Relations

Summary
This study provides an overview of China’s current approach to foreign policy and external relations. It focuses more particularly on the role and actions of China in global governance, its territorial claims and relations with countries in Asia, and its emergence as an important actor in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood. It assesses the implications for the EU and makes recommendations on how the EU should deepen its strategic partnership with China. The study argues that China has not made a unilateral and exclusive turn towards assertiveness in its foreign policy. China’s foreign policy assertiveness represents a policy choice that should be understood in the broader context of its external relations, which is one of uncertainty. Both the impact of China’s emergence in international affairs and the use China intends to make of its power and influence remain uncertain. This uncertainty is explained by the interdependence between a number of international and domestic factors as well as by the absence of a grand strategy. The uncertainty in China’s foreign policy opens avenues for the EU to influence China and further deepen the scope of the EU-China Strategic Partnership.

Gender Equality Policies in the USA

Summary
Even though the most obvious forms of sex discrimination have been considerably reduced in the USA society, discrimination takes much more subtle forms. This note offers an overview of the situation in the US (at federal level) regarding gender equality and is based on 5 themes: sex discrimination in the workplace; reconciliation of private and professional life; access to health care; equal representation in decision-making; eradication of all forms of gender-based violence. It appears that, depending on the issue at stake, the US situation can be comparable to the one of some of the EU countries or be particular notably because of cultural specificities.

Democratic Control in the Member States of the European Council and the Euro Zone Summits (Study and Annex 1 - 2)

Summary
The European Council is increasingly central to the governance of the European Union. Even if national parliaments have originally focused their involvement in EU affairs on the ordinary legislative process, most of the chambers have started to develop specific activities, before or after European summits. From ex-ante influence to ex-post accountability, seven different models of control have been identified. Beyond their differences rooted in national democratic systems, they call for twelve recommendations listed in this report.
The Impact of the Resolutions and Other Activities of the European Parliament in the Field of Human Rights Outside the EU

Publication type: Study
Date: 05-12-2012
Author: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Human Rights

Summary: The European Parliament is seen as the most principled and outspoken EU institution within the field of human rights. However, empirical research focused on Belarus, China, Cuba, Egypt, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe suggests that translating this visibility into tangible results — protecting individuals and organisations and influencing third countries’ policies violating human rights — remains an elusive goal. Many factors that determine the impact of the Parliament in the field of human rights are external to the Parliament and beyond its control. Others, however, stem from a lack of coordination between the Parliament and the European External Action Service. Within the Parliament, factors that can influence the organisation’s impact include the level of coherence, consistency and coordination of activities. To strengthen its effectiveness, the European Parliament should make the following adaptations: strengthen contacts with civil society in third countries to reinforce the institution’s position as a supporter of human rights; increase its internal coherence and coordination across different instruments; and exploit the powers granted by the Lisbon Treaty to promote an effective and common EU human rights strategy.

A Coherent EU Strategy for the Sahel

Publication type: Study
Date: 11-05-2012
External author: Luis SIMON, Alexander MATTELAER and Amelia HADFIELD (Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium) with research support provided by Marc-Antoine MORIN (Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium)
Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: regional security | the EU’s international role | Sahel | regional cooperation | political situation | development aid | terrorism | drug traffic | common security and defence policy | economic situation

Summary: The Sahel region constitutes Europe’s southern geopolitical border. Any instability there will eventually find its way into the European neighbourhood and Europe itself. The present study examines the main challenges affecting the region and offers a critical evaluation of the 2011 EU ‘Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel’. The strategy identifies the lack of governmental capacity and systemic poverty as the key challenges the region faces and rightly points to concerted action in the security and development domains as the way forward. As such, we take a generally positive view of the diagnosis and the lines of action it envisages. However, we argue that one year after its adoption, the EU’s Sahel strategy has not lived up to expectations. For all the praising about the need for comprehensiveness, the EU’s efforts in the realm of security and development remain significantly disconnected. But ultimately, it is national caveats that pose the greatest threat to a more political implementation of the Sahel strategy. These include a denial of the strategic importance of the region, a lack of willingness to engage with Algeria and a resistance to incorporating military assistance into the EU’s toolbox.

The Link between Job Creation, Innovation, Education and Training: An Assessment of Policies Pursued at EU Level

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-05-2010
External author: Holger Bonin (Centre for European Economic Research - ZEW) and Werner Hölzl (Austrian Institute for Economic Research - WIFO)
Policy area: Employment | Education | Industry
Keyword: labour market | education policy | economic growth | employment policy | innovation

Summary: The study analyses how EU cooperation strategies in the realms of employment, innovation and education and training interact in shaping labour market dynamics and influence the quantity and quality of new jobs. It attempts to give an assessment of whether the current policies pursued at the EU level are appropriate to reach the objectives of generating higher growth and more and better jobs.
Cross-Border Collective Bargaining and Transnational Social Dialogue

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2011
External author: Werner Eichhorst (IZA), Michael J. Kendzia (IZA) and Barbara Vandeweghe (IDEA Consult)
Policy area: Public international law | Social Policy | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Employment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: collective bargaining | transnational corporation | social dialogue (EU) | working conditions | social security | European Works Council

Summary: The present study analyses cross-border collective bargaining and transnational social dialogue across the EU and aims to survey its impact at the European level. Therefore, the study discusses the current prevailing EU legislative framework as well as the latest developments within this area. By mapping the social partnership across the EU, it is shown that the system of industrial relations differs from Member State to Member State, in particular between the EU-15 and the EU-12 Member States. The study also finds that in practice cross-border collective bargaining plays only a minor role, while transnational social dialogue including international and European framework agreements has been developing significantly during recent years, although no legal framework for such transnational texts exists thus so far. Similarly, it is noted that European Works Councils constitute effective motors within the development process of transnational social dialogue. The study concludes with a discussion on further advancement of EU legislation and the formulation of practical policy recommendations for the European Parliament.

Study

Impact of the Economic Crisis on Social, Economic and Territorial Cohesion of the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-06-2014
External author: Simona Milo in cooperation with: Riccardo Crescenzi, Waltraud Schelkle, Niccolo Durazzi, Elitsa Garnizova, Pawel Janowski, Agnieszka Olechnicka, Davide Luca and Maria Fossarello
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword: Structural Funds | EU regional policy | EU Member State | Cohesion Fund | regional policy | Italy | impact study | economic consequence | Poland | Germany | economic and social cohesion | Bulgaria | economic recession | regional economy | economic situation

Summary: The impact of the economic and financial crisis that started in 2008 is still being felt. In November 2008, the European Commission launched a European Economic Recovery Plan with a view to coordinate Member States’ action in response to the crisis. In this context, the Study uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods in order to provide an overview of the impact of the crisis across Member States and regions, in terms of economic, social and territorial cohesion, and to assess the responses of cohesion policy to counteract the crisis. Volume II of the study (containing case studies on Italy, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria) is available under Annex.

Study

Standing Up for Your Right(s) in Europe - A Comparative Study on Legal Standing (Locus Standi) before the EU and Member States' Courts

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-08-2012
External author: M. Eliantonio, Ch.W. Backes, C.H. van Rhee, T.N.B.M. Spronken and Anna Berlee
Keyword: administrative court | civil law | administrative law | criminal proceedings | civil proceedings | criminal law | right of action | European citizenship | Court of Justice of the European Union

Summary: The aim of this study is to provide an in-depth and objective comparative analysis of legal provisions, doctrine and case-law on locus standi before civil, criminal and administrative courts of selected legal systems, and before the EU courts. This analysis serves as the basis for several recommendations in this area.

Study
Technology-Induced Atypical Workforms

**Publication type** Study

**Date** 01-05-1999

**External author** Gerard Valenduc (Fondation Travail, University of Namur, Belgium) in association with Andrew Gillespie (Curds, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK)

**Policy area** Employment | Industry

**Keyword** working time | labour market | labour law | information technology | workplace | non-standard employment | work contract

**Summary**

This report is concerned with the relationship between emerging patterns of “atypical” work and the increasingly pervasive information and communication technologies (ICTs). By atypical work we mean forms of work which appear to be increasing in response to the new ways in which societies are organising economic production, but which as yet still affect only a minority of Europe’s workers. The report considers several forms of atypical work, using the organising concepts of work time, employment contracts, work location, and, job detachment. It provides a number of concrete examples some of these practices are linked to the growth of ICTs. The report suggests that technology is only one of the drivers leading towards new work patterns. Others include globalisation, increased competition, feminisation of the workforce, change in consumer attitudes and lifestyles. Within this context ICTs facilitate change, but they do not predetermine outcomes. For example, most new employment in the European Union in the 1990s was part-time and/or temporary and this trend accelerated in the second half of the decade. The report presents five key findings. First, work forms are likely to become increasingly diverse over the next few years and a “core-periphery” workforce may be emerging. Second, existing labour regulations will become increasingly ineffective for combining worker protection and economic efficiency if current trends towards diversity continue. Third, in these circumstances, new mechanisms will be required to ensure that skills are portable, and that they can be upgraded on a continuous basis. This cannot be left to the individual worker alone, and a range of ‘stakeholders’ will need to accept responsibility for this process. Fourth, the “welfare state” (here we also include private sector providers of loans, insurance health etc.) will

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G20 Talks: Latest Developments on Food Security

**Publication type** Study

**Date** 15-07-2013

**External author** Fabian Capitanio (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)

**Policy area** Food Safety | Agriculture and Rural Development

**Keyword** sustainable agriculture | food price | food resources | supply and demand | cooperation on agriculture | price increase | food policy | multilateral relations | food shortage

**Summary**

Around 1 billion people suffer from chronic undernourishment. Food security is a complex phenomenon, and the main priority is contributing to understanding which environmental and specific factors could affect the state of food security and the exposure to price shock in the international food market. The role played by Global Actors (e.g. G8 and G20) is crucial. After briefly outlining the food security global governance system, mentioning the recent initiatives within and outside the G20 framework, we assess the concrete results achieved to improve food security.

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How to Promote the Role of Youth in Rural Areas of Europe?

**Publication type** Study

**Date** 15-11-2010

**External author** Mark SHUCKSMITH (Newcastle University, UK)

**Policy area** Social Policy | Employment | Agriculture and Rural Development | Economics and Monetary Issues

**Keyword** youth unemployment | rural region | youth policy | young person | social integration | rural development | young farmer

**Summary**

This report provides an overview of the situation of young people in rural areas of the EU. Young people’s social inclusion is multi-dimensional, and often characterised by individualisation. The report offers an assessment of the effect of rural development policies on young people’s integration into rural social and economic life. In short, most rural policy ignores young people, and most youth policies neglect the rural dimension. Finally, the report suggests some possible ways to improve youth integration in EU rural areas in the context of policy reforms post-2013.
**Human Rights and Climate Change: EU Policy Options**

*Publication type* Study  
*Date* 27-08-2012  
*External author* Christel COURNIL (University Paris 13, Pres Sorbonne Paris Cité, IRIS, CERAP, France); Catherine COLARD-FABREGOULE (University Paris 13, Pres Sorbonne Paris Cité, CERAP, France); Despina SINOU (University of Cergy-Pontoise, France); Sandrine MALJEAN-DUBOIS (National Centre for Scientific Research-CNRS, Centre for International and European Studies and Research - CERIC/CNRS, France); Chiô VLASTIOPoulos (University of Picardie, University Research Centre for Public and Political Action - CURAPP/CNRS, France); Anne-Sophie TABAU (University Paris 13 - Pres Sorbonne Paris Cité, CERAP, France); Isabell VERDIER-BUSCHEL (University of Basel, Centre for International and European Studies and Research - CERIC/CNRS of the Aix-Marseille University, France) and Adélie POMADE (University of Saint-Louis, Belgium)  
*Policy area* Environment | Global Governance | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights  
*Keyword* climate change | tradeable emission permit | EU environmental policy | EU policy | migration | transparency in decision-making | environmental protection | development aid | international negotiations | human rights  
*Summary* Our study provides a survey of the state of the relationships currently established between human rights and climate change. It examines the external diplomacy of the European Union in the fields of human rights and climate change. The relationship between these two fields is addressed from two different perspectives: the integration of the climate change topic within EU human rights diplomacy, and the inclusion of human rights concerns within EU climate change diplomacy. We analyse its effectiveness, efficiency and the interrelationships with the EU’s external development policy by showing, where appropriate, their coordination, coherence and mutual support. In this respect, special emphasis is put on migration issues. Our study then turns the analysis towards internal EU climate change policies, which are explored from the perspective of human rights. We assess the compatibility of European Union mitigation policies with human rights and the gradual integration of the EU adaptation framework within other key European Union policies. Finally, this work concludes with a clarification of how the environmental human right to public information and participation in decision-making, which is transversal by nature, appears and may evolve in both EU internal and external climate policy.

Study EN

**The Various Roles of the ECB in the New EMU Architecture, Monetary Dialogue September 2013**

*Publication type* Study  
*Date* 13-12-2013  
*External author* Zsolt DARVAS and Silvia MERLER (Bruegel, Brussels, Belgium), Karl WHELAN (University College Dublin, Ireland), Anne SIBERT (Birkbeck, University of London and CEPR), Sylvester C.W.EIJFFINGER (CentER and EBC, Tilburg University and CEPR) and Stefan Collignon (Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa, and CER, Rome, Italy)  
*Policy area* Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues  
*Keyword* supervisory power | European System of Central Banks | economic policy | conflict of interest | single monetary policy | coordination of EMU policies | powers of the institutions (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU) | banking supervision | European Central Bank | financial intervention | support mechanism  
*Summary* The five briefing papers included in this compilation assess and comment on the ECB’s new responsibilities as a supervisory authority. The papers examine the overall position of the ECB and the various roles of the ECB in the new institutional framework as well as its relationship with other bodies in terms of institutional design. In the context, the papers assess synergies, overlaps as well as the risks of possible conflicts of interest between ECB’s different roles and among institutions, including the positive and negative externalities that the new tasks may generate in relation to ECB’s key mandate for price stability.

Study EN

**Pension Systems in the EU – Contingent Liabilities and Assets in the Public and Private Sector**

*Publication type* Study  
*Date* 14-10-2011  
*External author* Werner EICHHORST (IZA), Maarten GERARD (IDEA Consult), Michael J. KENDZIA (IZA), Christine MAYRHUBER (WIFO), Connie NIELSEN (NIRAS), Gerhard RÜNSTLER (WIFO) and Thomas URL (WIFO)  
*Policy area* Social Policy | Employment  
*Keyword* older worker | pension scheme | employment policy | population ageing | EU Member State | retirement conditions  
*Summary* This study provides an overview of the different pension systems across EU Member States and describes contingent liabilities and assets in the public and private sectors. Therefore, the study assesses both the recent development of the pension schemes and the current stay of play. As a result, good practices are identified and sound features commended which are to be implemented across the EU. Key elements of an adequate and sustainable pension scheme include, for example, a higher labour market participation rate, most notably amongst older workers, a higher retirement age and an appropriate mix of pension pillars.

Study EN
Self-employment and social security: Effects on innovation and economic growth

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 09-10-2013
Author: Ron DAVIES
Policy area: Social Policy
Keyword: employment statistics | self-employed person | job creation | entrepreneur | entrepreneurship | self-employment | tax on profits of self-employment
Summary: Self-employed people make up more than 15% of workers in the European Union. While social security systems differ from one Member State to another, in many cases the self-employed are not eligible for the same social protection granted to employees, or they enjoy limited benefits. Extending more social protection to the self-employed may be seen to be a question of social justice but it may have important effects on innovation and economic growth.

Ukraine: What to watch for in 2016

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 12-02-2016
Author: Naja BENTZEN
Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: energy supply | disinformation | referendum | political situation | gas pipeline | Ukraine | foreign policy | financial aid | Russia | association agreement (EU) | military occupation | settlement of disputes | economic situation
Summary: With the entry into force of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) as part of the Association Agreement (AA) on 1 January 2016, Ukraine has taken a significant step forward on its long road to European integration. However, 2016 will entail a new series of tests for the country.

Social and Employment Situation in Cyprus

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-09-2012
External author: Nicos Trimikliniotis (University of Nicosia, PRIO Cyprus Centre)
Policy area: Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Employment
Keyword: poverty | Cyprus | labour law | youth unemployment | female worker | fight against unemployment | marginalisation | working conditions | social situation | migrant worker
Summary: This Report provides a general overview of the employment and social situation in Cyprus, especially during the crisis, as well as relevant social policies in place, taking into account the national reform programme to implement the Employment Guidelines in the form of measures to reach the EU 2020 goals.

How to End Energy Poverty? Scrutiny of Current EU and Member States Instruments

Publication type: Study
Date: 26-10-2015
External author: Schumacher, Katja (Öko-Institut e.V.), Cludius, Johanna (Öko-Institut e.V.), Förster, Hannah (Öko-Institut e.V.), Greiner, Benjamin (Öko-Institut e.V.), Hünecke, Katja (Öko-Institut e.V.), Kenkmann, Tanja (Öko-Institut e.V.) and van Nuffel, Luc (Trinomics)
Policy area: Forward Planning | Energy | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection
Keyword: poverty | energy efficiency | socially disadvantaged class | EU Member State | energy consumption | energy use | social situation | improvement of housing | household electrical appliance | aid to disadvantaged groups | price of energy | subsidised housing | low income | European standard
Summary: Policymaking to alleviate energy poverty needs to find a balance between short-term remedies and the resolution of long-term drivers of energy poverty. EU policy might need to work towards a) finding a definition of energy poverty; b) supporting national policies financially through EU coordination; and c) setting minimum standards for energy efficiency of buildings and devices. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).
Democratic Change in Central and Eastern Europe 1989-90

Publication type: Study
Date: 27-01-2015
Policy area: Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: Yugoslavia | USSR | Romania | enlargement of the Union | East-West relations | contemporary history | European integration | unification of Germany | Baltic States | human rights | Hungary | Poland | change of political system | post-communism | Albania | German Democratic Republic | Bulgaria | cold war | Czechoslovakia | European Parliament
Summary: Part of the new European Parliament History series, this study analyses the events that led to democratic change in Central and Eastern Europe in the years 1989-90, from the perspective of the Parliament, as detailed in materials to be found in its Historical Archives. It traces Parliament’s discussions and positions during this crucial period, including its debates on Post-Communism and on Eastern enlargement. The studies in the European Parliament History Series are primarily based on documents preserved in, and made available to the public by, the Historical Archives of the European Parliament.

Implementing the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-05-2010
External author: Germann Avocats (Geneva) and multidisciplinary research team 1
Policy area: Culture
Keyword: cultural relations | UN convention | Unesco | cultural pluralism | heritage protection | cultural cooperation | cultural promotion
Summary: This study provides a summary of the state of implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 2005. Focusing on fields in which the EU is expected to provide leadership or coordination, it is intended to provide ideas and long-term guidance on implementing the Convention. For that purpose, it analyses the obligations set out by this treaty. It assesses various practices in implementing the UNESCO Convention from a legal and practical viewpoint, and identifies challenges and measures to help achieve the objectives of this instrument.

Developing a Criminal Justice Area in the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-01-2014
External author: Marianne L. Wade (Institute of Judicial Administration, University of Birmingham, the UK, in association with the Institut für Migrations- und Sicherheitstudien, Berlin, Germany)
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: legal system | comparative law | citizens' Europe | criminal liability | juvenile delinquency | EU Member State | European judicial area | rights of the defence | criminal procedure | prison system
Summary: This study addresses the development of an EU criminal justice area. By exploring key concepts and features of criminal processes in comparative perspective, it seeks to provide ideas for such an area. Because the situation in the member states is diverse, independent concepts guided by the study findings are explored.

Political Dialogue on Human Rights under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement

Publication type: Study
Date: 06-05-2014
External author: Jean BOSSUYT, Camilla ROCCA and Brecht LEIN (ECDPM, The Netherlands)
Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: Chad | Nigeria | EDF | ACP-EU relationship | Rwanda | Ethiopia | development plan | sustainable development | human rights | Uganda | Gambia | European External Action Service | Cameroon | EU financial instrument | Zimbabwe | Cotonou Agreement
Summary: The aim of this study is to assess the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the EU's political dialogue on Human Rights under Article 8 of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement with the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP). Following a set of guiding questions, the study looks into the inclusiveness, comprehensiveness, effectiveness, alignment and impact of EU political dialogue in the area of HR, both within and beyond the Cotonou framework. Based on a systematic literature review of the legal provisions in place, as well as an analysis of the HR dialogue in practice in a selection of country-cases, the study offers an assessment of current practices and identifies the following four recommendations for improvement:

i) develop a more strategic and structured approach to political dialogue;
ii) enhance the legitimacy of the HR political dialogue;
iii) ensure a result-oriented monitoring of HR dialogue and
iv) fully exploit the potential of development programmes and financial instruments to underpin and strengthen the dialogue.

Study EN
Press freedom in the EU: Legal framework and challenges

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 30-04-2015
Author: Eva-Maria Alexandrova POPTCHEVA
Policy area: Democracy
Keyword: self-regulation | freedom of expression | pluralism in the media | communications profession | European Court of Human Rights | professional ethics | freedom of the press | European Convention on Human Rights | democracy | case law (EU)
Summary: Freedom of expression and information, as well as the freedom of the press, which provides the most powerful platform for the first two, contribute significantly to the formation of public opinion, thus allowing people to make informed choices in their political decisions. These freedoms are therefore essential for democracy, which is one of the fundamental values common to all Member States, on which the European Union is founded (Article 2 TEU). Within the EU legal framework, press freedom is a fundamental right established in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, with its provision closely resembling that on press freedom in the European Convention on Human Rights.

At EU level media freedom was long dealt with purely relative to the Single Market, and thus from a rather economic point of view. However, the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU), for its part, started to see the importance of media pluralism very early, not only for the free movement of services across the EU but also in order to ensure a pluralism in views. The Court's rulings underlined the importance of media pluralism and media freedom not only for the internal market but also for democracy in the EU.

The European Parliament has repeatedly advocated press freedom and media pluralism in the EU and abroad. It has recently addressed the issue of the effectiveness of press freedom as an EU fundamental right and an objective EU value, in view of the scarce possibility for the EU institutions to act to enforce respect for EU fundamental rights and values by Member States.

The Role of Cities in Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-08-2014
External author: Christine Hamza and Alexandra Frangenheim (Metis GmbH); David Charles and Stephen Miller (EPRC)
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: Structural Funds | United Kingdom | Sofia City region | Yorkshire and The Humber | Belgium | urbanisation | urban community | Italy | operational programme | Poland | Germany | Bulgaria | Province of Antwerp | urban economy | Berlin | Silesia province | EU initiative | case study | Piedmont | socioeconomic conditions | regional development | Spain | cross-border cooperation | economic and social cohesion | urban centre | urban habitat | Andalusia
Summary: Urban regions are an important factor in regional development. During the 2007-2013 programming period, the main input provided by cities and urban areas was at project level. For the 2014-2020 programming period, Cohesion policy enhances the role of urban areas. Nevertheless, in practice the role of cities still seems similar in scale. As the programming phase is almost completed, there is now limited scope for further influence on the design of the new programmes. The next opportunity to involve cities will be as part of partnerships during the programming period.

Encouraging Private Investment in the Cultural Sector

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-07-2011
External author: Vesna Čopič (Lead researcher), Aleksandra Uzelac (Study coordinator), Jaka Primorac, Daniela Angelina Jelinčić, Andrej Srakar and Ana Žuvela (IMO - Institute for International Relations)
Policy area: Culture | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: VAT | private investment | public-private partnership | United States | tax relief | EU Member State | culture industry
Summary: The study identifies trends in encouraging private investment in the cultural sector in EU Member States. The study elaborates on empirical data gathered through questionnaires, case studies of five countries and desk research. It provides an overview of mechanisms and measures used to encourage private investment, including: tax framework (i.e. encouraging the consumption of culture and business and philanthropic investment), financial and banking schemes and intermediary mechanisms. A comparison between private investment in culture in the United States and in Europe is provided.

Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Annex I: EN
Millennium Development Goals and beyond 2015, a Strong EU Engagement

Publication type: Study
Date: 04-04-2013

External author: Pedro MORAZÁN (SÜDWIND e.V. - Institut für Ökonomie und Ökumene), Arno BEHRENS (CEPS), Monica ALESSI (CEPS) and Heiner JANUS (DIE)

Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: poverty | the EU's international role | development aid | social rights | international negotiations | sustainable development | aid evaluation

Summary: The "United Nations Millennium Declaration", endorsed in 2000, and the accompanying Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted in 2002, have been important instruments in streamlining and coordinating international development action. Since the targets were defined, significant progress has been achieved in almost all the MDGs but there are also numerous challenges that have not been addressed with the necessary commitment by the various stakeholders. New global realities and challenges have enormous implications on new development strategies. In order to agree on a common UN post-2015 development agenda several options are on the table. As one of the key actors, the EU has an important role to play in defining a new post-2015 framework. The EU is likely to build on the current MDG approach and to maintain poverty eradication as the central objective. However, it will probably aim at a more balanced and holistic rights-based approach to the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development than in the current MDG framework. As a main recommendation of the study, the EP is prompted to use its own-initiative report on the post-2015 development framework to encourage the EU as a whole to ensure a bottomup approach at the national level in both developed and developing countries – with a broad participation of the marginalised in particular, so as to guarantee their voices are listened to and their needs seriously addressed.

Study EN

Proceedings of the Workshop on "Ensuring Access to Basic Banking Services"

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-04-2014

External author: Olivier JÉRUSALMY (European Financial Inclusion Network, Brussels, Belgium), Georges GLOUKOVIEZOFF (G2 Research, Dublin, Ireland), Katarina KLAMKOVA (Social Inclusion Working Group of the European Anti-Poverty Network - EAPN), Peter O. MÜLBERT (Centre for German and International Law of Financial Services at the University of Mainz, Germany), Manfred WESTPHAL (Schjødt Brussels, Brussels, Belgium)

Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword: universal service | drafting of EU law | bank deposit | services of general interest | law of banking | social integration | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary: The workshop was organised to prepare the discussion of the expected European Commission proposal on access to a basic payment account which was at the time announced for May or June 2011 in view of the subsequent report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON). However, in 2011 the Commission finally opted for issuing a Recommendation, the ineffectiveness of which it evaluated first before coming forward with a legislative proposal two years later in May 2013; in fact a proposal for which the European Parliament had called already in July 2012 in a report.

Study EN

Workshop on EU biodiversity legislation: How to make it work Brussels, 8 June 2010

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-08-2010

External author: Mr Ronan Uhel, European Environment Agency - Mr Nicolas de Sadeleer, UCL, Saint Louis University, Brussels - Mr Stefan Leiner, DG Environment, European Commission - Mr Bart Vercoutere, Royal Haskoning - Mr Alistair Taylor, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Policy area: Environment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword: biodiversity | EU environmental policy | protection of plant life | coastal protection | protection of animal life | environmental law | conservation of resources | countryside conservation

Summary: This report summarises the presentations and discussions at a Workshop on "EU biodiversity legislation: How to make it work", organised by the ENVI Committee and held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Tuesday 8 June 2010. The aim of the workshop was to provide MEPs with a comprehensive and balanced overview of the difficulties experienced by and the differences between Member States regarding implementation of biodiversity legislation and workable solutions. The workshop was organised in the context of the report on the implementation of biodiversity legislation (2009/2108(INI)), for which Ms Esther De Lange is the rapporteur.

Study EN
Banking Union and a Single Banking Supervisory Mechanism

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2012

External author: Nicolas VÉRON (Bruegel, Brussels and Peterson Institute for International Economics (Washington DC), Anne SIBERT (Birkbeck, University of London and CEPR), Karl WHELAN (University College Dublin), Sylvester C.W. EUFFINGER (CentER and EBC, Tilburg University and CEPR with research assistance by Rob Nijskens, Tilburg University) and Guillermo DE LA DEHESA (Centre for Economic Policy Research, CEPR)

Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword: financial market | EU office or agency | credit institution | supervisory body | fiscal policy | coordination of EMU policies | euro area | deepening of the European Union | banking supervision | European Central Bank

Summary: A major building block for the so called "banking union" is the banking supervision. The Euro Area Summit Statement from 29 June 2012 classifies the provision of such a single supervisory mechanism 'as a matter of urgency'. On 12 September 2012 the Commission published a set of proposals for the establishment of a single supervisory mechanism. The notes in this compilation provide for a first evaluation of the Commission proposals.

Study EN

Eastern Partnership after five years [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 26-05-2015

Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI

Policy area: Foreign Affairs

Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | Latvia | dissemination of EU information | territorial law | Russia | Moldova | Ukraine | Caucasus countries | directory | summit meeting | Belarus

Summary: The European Union reaffirmed on 22 May its commitment to developing closer political and economic relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine under its Eastern Partnership programme. At a summit in Riga, Latvia, participants said in a declaration they would work together to strengthen democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Facing continued confrontation between Russia and Ukraine, the EU confirmed its support to the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of all its partners. A selection of commentaries and analyses by major international think tanks on Eastern Partnership and its future are listed below, with hyperlinks to the texts concerned:

At a Glance EN

EU migratory challenge: Possible responses to the refugee crisis

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 04-09-2015

Author: Piotr BAKOWSKI | Eva-Maria Alexandrova POPTCHEVA | Detelin IVANOV

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword: political asylum | migration control | fight against crime | EU police cooperation | Canada | trafficking in human beings | external border of the EU | political refugee | aid to refugees | internal border of the EU | Australia | EU migration policy | financing method

Summary: With hundreds of thousands of people embarking on perilous journeys to reach the EU borders, the EU now faces an unprecedented migratory crisis. The following pages set out possible responses, some based on legislation already in force and others requiring a profound reform of the existing system. It is argued that the so-called Dublin system – defining the Member State responsible in individual cases for examining applications for international protection – has led to overburdening of Member States at the EU's southern external borders. Meanwhile diverging asylum standards across the EU have resulted in a great number of asylum-seekers travelling to Member States with higher reception standards. Therefore the solutions proposed centre, on the one hand, on harmonising national asylum standards and, on the other hand, on distributing asylum-seekers more evenly across the EU. With respect to illegal border crossings, recent EU policy documents have focused on addressing migrant smuggling through concerted action, including military operations. Moreover, in order to bring down the number of such crossings, legal entry channels to the EU could be proposed for persons in need of international protection. These include a possibility to trigger the so-called Temporary Protection Directive, as well as making use of 'humanitarian admissions' and 'humanitarian visas'. Any additional admissions create extra costs for Member States, however. One way to limit them is through private sponsorship of refugees as has been undertaken by Canada under the Refugee Sponsorship Program. On top of these concrete actions on EU territory, solutions are possible outside Europe through cooperation with third countries. The aim is to address the root causes of irregular migration, to counter and prevent migrant smuggling and trafficking, and to provide effective return, readmission and reintegration policies for those not qualifying for protection.

Briefing ES, DE, EN, FR, IT
Making Perfect Life: Bio-Engineering (in) the 21st Century - Phase II (Monitoring Report)

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2011

External author: Rinie van Est (Rathenau Institute, editor), Dirk Stemerding (Rathenau Institute, editor), Ira van Keulen (Rathenau Institute), Ingrid Geesink (Rathenau Institute), Mirjam Schuijff (Rathenau Institute), Helge Torgersen (ITA), Markus Schmidt (Biofaction), Karen Kastenhofer (ITA), Bärbel Hüsing (Fraunhofer ISI), Knud Böhle (ITAS), Christopher Coenen (ITAS), Michael Decker (ITAS) and Michael Rader (ITAS)

Policy area: Research Policy | Public Health
Keyword: medical research | project evaluation | neurology | research programme | genetic engineering | embryo and foetus | bio-ethics | eugenics

Summary: The report describes four fields of bio-engineering: engineering of living artefacts (chapter 2), engineering of the body (chapter 3), engineering of the brain (chapter 4), and engineering of intelligent artefacts (chapter 5). Each chapter describes the state of the art of these bio-engineering fields, and whether the concepts “biology becoming technology” and “technology becoming biology” are helpful in describing and understanding, from an engineering perspective, what is going on in each R&D terrain. Next, every chapter analyses to what extent the various research strands within each field of bio-engineering are stimulated by the European Commission, i.e., are part and parcel of the European Framework program. Finally, each chapter provides an overview of the social, ethical and legal questions that are raised by the various scientific and technological activities involved. The report’s final chapter discusses to what extent the trends “biology becoming technology” and vice versa capture many of the developments that are going on in the four bio-engineering fields we have mapped. The report also reflects on the social, ethical and legal issues that are raised by the two bioengineering megatrends that constitute a new technology wave.

Study EN

The implementation of the EU guidelines on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Long version)

Publication type: Study
Date: 02-04-2007

External author: Anna-Lena Svensson-McCarthy, Lawyer, Human Rights Consultant

Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword: torture | the EU's international role | Morocco | Ukraine | cruel and degrading treatment | common foreign and security policy | Egypt | Bangladesh | human rights | Uganda | social rehabilitation | Georgia | Algeria | civil society

Summary: The present study contains the result of the work carried out to analyse the level of implementation of the Guidelines to EU policy towards third countries on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (hereinafter referred to as ‘the guidelines’), which were adopted by the General Affairs Council on 9 April 2001 “to provide the EU with an operational tool […] to support and strengthen ongoing efforts to prevent and eradicate torture and ill-treatment in all parts of the world”. As stated in the Introduction to the guidelines, “[t]rust for human rights features among the key objectives of the EU’s common foreign and security policy (CFSP)”.

Study EN

The Policy on Gender Equality in Ireland

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-11-2012

External author: Aine Travers (National Women’s Council of Ireland)

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: poverty | domestic violence | participation of women | position of women | trafficking in human beings | disease prevention | women's rights | Ireland | gender equality

Summary: This note provides an overview of legislation, policy, and practice in Ireland relating to gender equality. Areas of focus include the changing nature of Ireland’s labour market and social welfare system; gender and healthcare; gender-based violence; women in decision making; intersection of different forms of discrimination; and cultural stereotypes.

In-Depth Analysis EN

The Culture Strand of the Creative Europe Programme 2014-2020

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-09-2012

External author: Colin Mercer, Nina Obuljen, Jaka Primorac and Aleksandra Uzelac (IMO-Institute for International Relations)

Policy area: Culture | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: EU financing arrangements | artistic creation | competitiveness | culture industry | EU programme | cultural promotion | economic analysis | project management

Summary: This note provides an overview, conceptual, and policy commentary on the proposed Culture Strand of the Creative Europe Programme. It takes into account all available commentary on this Programme from both official sources and a wide range of stakeholders, including published results of consultation and follow up discussions with key actors in the field by IMO research team. The focus is on both the plausibility and cogency of the overall policy architecture and on key points of acknowledged concern.

Study DE, EN, FR

Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV
### Towards a New EU Legal Framework for Data Protection and Privacy - Challenges, Principles and the Role of the European Parliament

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-09-2011  
**External author** Prof. Didier Bigo (Centre d’Etudes sur les Conflits, C&C); Dr Sergio Carrera (Centre for European Policy Studies, CEPS); Ms Gloria González Fuster (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB); Prof Elspeth Guild (CEPS and Radboud University of Nijmegen); Prof. Paul de Hert (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB); Dr Julian Jeandesboz (Centre d’Etudes sur les Conflits, C&C); Dr Vagelis Papakonstantinou (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB)  
**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice  
**Keyword** protection of privacy | EU police cooperation | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | technology | personal data | data protection  
**Summary** This study addresses the new challenges stemming from data processing policies and systems falling in the scope of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. It identifies a set of common basic principles and standards for the genuine assurance of data protection in all the phases of EU policymaking and for the effective implementation of this fundamental right. The study puts forward a set of recommendations to guide the European Parliament’s role and legislative inputs into the upcoming revision of the EU legal framework on data protection, which is expected to be launched by the end of 2011.

**Study** [EN](#)

### EU Action to Strengthen Respect for Human Rights and Democracy in the Process of Political Changes in the Middle East and North Africa

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 04-12-2012  
**External author** Richard YOUNGS and Hélène MICHOU (Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior - FRIDE, Spain)  
**Case studies** Kristina KAUSCH (Egypt), Barah MIKAIL (Tunisia), Hélène MICHOU (Syria) and Ana ECHAGUE (Yemen)  
**Policy area** Global Governance | Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights  
**Keyword** impact study | EU relations | EU action | political situation | North Africa | democracy | political unrest | Middle East | human rights  
**Summary** This report evaluates the EU's action to strengthen respect for human rights and democracy in North Africa and the Middle East. Assessing the EU's changing institutional context since the Lisbon Treaty, it examines the major policy initiatives of 2011 in response to the events of the Arab Spring. The Arab Spring illustrated the limitations of the 'stability versus human rights' paradigm, and prompted the EU to promise that support for human rights and democracy would be central to its relations with the MENA-region. Such rhetoric must be matched by detailed action plans which incorporate the promotion of such values. As shown in the four case studies conducted for this report, laudable policy declarations must be implemented not only by tangible increases in budget lines, but also by concrete policy-structures capable of acting forcefully against human rights violations. The appointment of a Special Representative for Human Rights and the creation of the EED and CSF have the potential to achieve such goals, although the exact nature of these initiatives still need to be determined. This report recommends the EU to resolve its internal differences with regards to the region, to intensify its relations with other MENA partners, and suggests ways of enhancing the effectiveness of its policy.

**Study** [EN](#)

### The Policy on Gender Equality in Croatia – Update 2013

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 16-09-2013  
**External author** Morana Palićkovic Gruden and Ana Gruden  
**Policy area** Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity  
**Keyword** sexual discrimination | Croatia | equal pay | domestic violence | prostitution | participation of women | position of women | trafficking in human beings | women's rights | gender equality  
**Summary** This note updates the overview of gender equality in Croatia from 2011. Apart from providing the history of institutional and political development in Croatia in this area, it illustrates in particular measures taken regarding women's economic independence, the reconciliation of work and family life, women in decision-making, policies against violence against women, and the fight against stereotypes. Moreover, the two controversial issues of sexual health and rights and prostitution are briefly addressed.

**In-Depth Analysis** [EN](#)

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The Impact of Biotechnology on Developing Countries

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 14-02-2013
External author Timo KAPHENGST (Ecologic Institute, Germany) and Lucy SMITH (Ecologic Institute, Germany)
Policy area Environment | Research Policy | Food Safety | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword developing countries | seed | biotechnology | plant breeding | Argentina | China | nutritional needs | biodiversity | sustainable agriculture | economic consequence | Mexico | crop production | South Africa | cultivation techniques | environmental impact
Summary Modified (GM) crops are increasingly grown in developing countries and can lead to socioeconomic benefits and costs depending on where and how they are adopted. After examining conventional assessments of farm-level indicators such as: yield increase, pesticide costs, farmers’ incomes from GM crops, the paper goes on to argue that a variety of structural issues at the national and international level have to be considered in order to obtain a comprehensive picture on the potential which GM crops have to enhance food security in developing countries. Hence, the paper further explores the relationship between GM crops and biodiversity against the backdrop of agro-ecology as a potentially beneficial concept for smallholders in developing countries.

The Contribution of Competition Policy to Growth and the EU 2020 Strategy

Publication type Study
Date 09-10-2013
External author Katrine ELLERSGAARD NIELSEN, Signe RØLMER, Frederik HARIOFF, Søren ANDERSEN and Henrik BALLEBYE OKHOLM (Copenhagen Economics)
Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword merger control | single market | EU competition policy | control of State aid | telecommunications policy | liberalisation of the market | energy policy | EU growth strategy | innovation | anti-trust legislation
Summary This study researches the link between competition policy and economic growth. In particular, the authors investigate the contribution from the competition instruments – antitrust, merger control, sector specific measures, liberalisation and State aid – to achieve the goals of the EU 2020 Strategy. The analysis is based on ten case studies of practical application of competition instruments in various sectors, such as energy, postal, telecommunication, transport, manufacturing and financial services. The authors conclude that competition policy contributes significantly to the EU 2020 Strategy and to economic growth, and the authors make recommendations for improvements of competition policy to further strengthen that contribution.

Venezuela: Human rights situation

Publication type At a Glance
Date 06-05-2015
Author Ionel ZAMFIR
Policy area Foreign Affairs
Keyword poverty | torture | government violence | freedom of the press | human rights | Venezuela | concentration of powers | political prisoner | independence of the judiciary | right to education | economic recession | armed forces | civil society
Summary PDF Version The human rights situation in Venezuela has deteriorated significantly, due to increased political confrontation and an economy in rapid decline. Criticism regarding human rights from non-governmental, regional and international organisations has intensified. The government, while it has admitted some abuse, has done little to hold those responsible to account.

Improving the Integrated Approach to Deprived Neighbourhoods

Publication type Study
Date 15-12-2009
External author Jacques Bardouin, Carmelo Messina, Caterina Febbraio and Magali Mosse (EUROFOCUS)
Policy area Social Policy | Regional Development
Keyword urban renewal | European Social Fund | European Regional Development Fund | sensitive area | deprived urban area
Summary This study covers two successive programming periods (2000-2013). It looks at the background and the achievements of European policy on deprived neighbourhoods, sensitive urban areas and the instruments used for such purposes by the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. It sets out recommendations for improving future urban development policy by means of an integrated approach, especially from the point of view of governance and inter-sectoral integration.

Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
Personal and Social Development of Women in Rural Areas of Europe

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2010
External author: Bettina B. BOCK

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: rural region | rural sociology | participation of women | position of women | common agricultural policy | rural development | gender equality | woman farmer

Summary: The present note provides an overview of the social situation of women in the rural areas of Europe. It looks into rural women’s work, political participation and their experience of the quality of life in rural areas. It describes the average situation of rural women and identifies the differences between rural areas and between social groups of women. It also looks into the effectiveness of rural development programmes and formulates recommendations for the CAP post 2013.

Study EN

Tunisian Transition: Hope in Spite of the Challenges

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 19-06-2012
Author: Pekka HAKALA | Elyes GHANMI

Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Democracy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: the EU's international role | pluralism in the media | regional cooperation | political situation | public order | democratisation | Tunisia | religious fundamentalism | economic situation | judicial reform

Summary: Tunisia, the birthplace of the popular Arab uprisings, is a small country which remains strongly oriented towards Europe. The European Union has every interest in Tunisia’s successful transition to democracy. The overview of the first 18 months of the transition period is both positive and worrying. Numerous challenges and obstacles are slowing down the process of democratic transition, including socio-economic problems such as unemployment, liquidity in the banking sector and external financing. Political and security issues have emerged, the most alarming of which are still the extremism and violence of Salafist groups. The political landscape is still characterised by strong polarisation between the parliamentary majority and the opposition parties, which sometimes disrupts the work of the National Constituent Assembly. The major projects involved in Tunisia’s democratic transition remain unfinished and the population has high expectations. The EU should strengthen its support for the essential political reforms and encourage the Tunisian authorities to make the most of its institutions and Member States’ expertise in various sectors. It should also speed up the process for negotiating new agreements.

In-Depth Analysis EN, FR

The EU’s Contribution to Member States’ Services Promoting Foreign Trade and Investment: Value Added?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 03-09-2013
Author: Eulalia CLAROS GIMENO | Elfriede BIERBRAUER

Policy area: European Added Value | International Trade | Budgetary Control
Keyword: common commercial policy | India | Japan | investment abroad | audit | market access | small and medium-sized enterprises | China | direct investment | operation of the Institutions | diversification of exports | investment promotion | Thailand | chamber of commerce and industry

Summary: The European business centres in Asia – and notably those in India, China and Thailand, which are already active – have yet to demonstrate that they offer significant value-added for European enterprises wishing to engage in Asian markets. Instead of being welcomed as EU complementarities, they are generally considered as duplications of Member States’ own promotion instruments, and this in a field in which the EU as such does not hold competence. It is questionable why the EU’s efforts to facilitate market access for European enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, were not built on the best practises of existing institutions, notably the bilateral chambers of commerce. The timing is also questionable: additional structures were created long before any assessment was undertaken of what is already available in third markets. The lack of coherence of the different EU centres’ work plans, priority clusters and time frames impede Member States - also members of the consortiums of various EU centres – from integrating the EU centres into their own marketing activities. It is therefore little surprise that an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of these EU business centres in Asia revealed numerous flaws – an assessment that suggests the EU’s strategy should be overhauled. It remains uncertain, however, whether and how the modest performance of the centres in India, China and Thailand will influence European Commission’s plans for additional Asian centres.

In-Depth Analysis EN
The Selection of Candidates for the European Parliament by National Parties and the Impact of European Political Parties

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-03-2009

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: Member of the European Parliament | political parties | candidate | European election | democratic deficit
Summary: This study compares the procedures applied by national political parties when they select their candidates for the European elections. It analyses the background in national law, the formal party statutes and the informal processes preparing the final selection. The report covers the calendar, selection criteria and structural characteristics of candidate nomination in the major political parties of the Member States, including the impact of European political parties.

Study EN

The role of the European Union in development cooperation and solidarity - Women and maternity in Latin America, in particular Brazil

Publication type: Study
Date: 06-05-2007
External author: Associazione Italiana Lua Nova, Venice

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Keyword: the EU's international role | sexual discrimination | development aid | position of women | women's rights | care of mothers and infants | gender equality | Latin America
Summary: This study analyses the EU's development co-operation framework, priorities and financing in Brazil in order to evaluate how it addresses the priority of supporting women and mothers, and how it can improve their conditions, from an economic, social and health point of view.

Study EN, IT

Impact of Accession on the Labour Markets of the New Member States

Publication type: Study
Date: 04-03-2007
External author: Applica sprl

Policy area: Employment
Keyword: labour market | employment policy | Community acquis | occupational migration | standard of living | income | working conditions | aid for restructuring | accession to the European Union
Study: EN

Intercultural Dialogue and Cohesion Policy

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-10-2008
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA

Policy area: Culture | Regional Development
Keyword: equal treatment | anti-discriminatory measure | cultural difference | European Social Fund | customs and traditions | cultural pluralism | marginalisation | European Regional Development Fund
Summary: This note examines the concept of intercultural dialogue and the EU response to it. It provides an overview of the contribution of Cohesion Policy and presents a selection of EU funded projects. The note has been prepared in the context of the Regional Development Committee hearing on the same subject.
In-Depth Analysis EN
**Fisheries in the Basque Country**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-01-2010  
Author: Jesus IBORRA MARTIN  
Policy area: Research Policy | Fisheries | Industry  
Keyword: catch of fish | conservation of fish stocks | fishing statistics | sea fishing | fishing industry | Community fisheries | Basque Country  

Summary: Information note for the Delegation of the European Parliament Committee on Fisheries to the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country (Spain) from 15 to 17 February 2010. It describes the fishing fleet of the Basque Country, its fisheries and fishing ports. It also describes the sectors of aquaculture, the processing industry and the sale of fisheries products and research associated with fisheries and the marine and coastal environments.

Study ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PT

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**Country Report on France - for the Study on "Member States' Policies for Children with Disabilities"**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 14-06-2013  
External author: Armelle Gouritin (under the supervision of Milieu Ltd., Belgium, Project Managers: Marta Ballesteros and Nathalie Meurens)  
Keyword: application of the law | UN convention | access to education | France | social survey | social legislation | disabled person | child | discrimination based on disability | children's rights  
Summary: This study looks at the situation of children with disabilities in France to identify the gaps in the legal frameworks and its implementation, the obstacles faced by children with disabilities and best practices. This country study is part of a larger study which analyses 18 Member States. Based on a comparative analysis of the country studies, the report 'Study on Member States' Policies for Children with Disabilities' (see under PE 474.416) provides some recommendations for EU action to enhance the situation of children with disabilities.

Study EN, FR

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**Conditions of Imprisonment in EU Member States and the Candidate Countries**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 01-03-2004  
External author: The International Centre for Prison Studies, King's College London, University of London, UK  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Public Health | Human Rights  
Keyword: torture | youth detention centre | European Convention on Human Rights | cruel and degrading treatment | marginalisation | health risk | prisoner work | prison administration | prison system  

Study EN, FR

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**The Implications of EIB and EBRD Co-Financing for the EU Budget**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 16-03-2011  
External author: Nick Robinson (School of Politics and international Studies, University of Leeds, UK) and Robert Bain (RBconsult Ltd, Weald, Kent, UK)  
Policy area: Budget | Budgetary Control | Financial and Banking Issues  
Keyword: co-financing | coordination of financing | institutional structure | budgetary control | EBRD | Community loan | European Investment Bank | general budget (EU)  
Summary: Recent years have seen the growth of a number of EU co-financing instruments designed to enhance the leverage of the EU budget by working more closely with the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. However, the growth of such instruments raises potential concerns in relation to financial control and liability, in relation to governance, transparency and visibility and in relation to the extent to which such activity helps the deliverability of EU objectives.

Study EN
Migration Policies of the European Union with its Mediterranean Partners - Necessity of Greater Mobility

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 25-04-2014
External author: Macarena NUÑO (IPEMED, France)

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | Libya | emigration | statistics | migration control | EU Member State | refugee | Union for the Mediterranean | private international law | geographical mobility | EU migration policy | Mediterranean third countries | immigration | Schengen Agreement | Frontex

Summary: The construction of an integrated Euro-Mediterranean region necessarily requires the establishment of strong cooperation in the field of migration. For this reason, migration must be considered a real opportunity, bringing benefits for the countries and populations of the two shores of the Mediterranean.

This report analyses European migration policies towards the Mediterranean Partner Countries before and after the Arab Spring. Furthermore, it highlights their key limitations and proposes specific recommendations in order to respond to the imperative of greater mobility in the region.

In order to achieve this, migration policies, often the source of passionate debate, must be tackled serenely and be the subject of constant dialogue between the parties involved, including civil society. These policies must not only meet objectives with regard to controlling migration flows but surpass them and render them an integral part of a coherent and comprehensive development policy for neighbouring countries. The EU must also develop a more attractive policy vis-à-vis migrant workers, which is able to respond to the labour shortages in certain segments of the European market and increase the likelihood of the country of origin benefiting from the competencies acquired in Europe. In this context, the participation of Euro-Mediterranean professional networks is to be encouraged.

Refugee Status in EU Member States and Return Policies

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-07-2005
External author: Kay Hailbronner (University of Constance, Germany) in co-operation with Lukas Gehrke (ICMPD, Vienna, Austria) and members of the Odysseus Network (country reports)

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Human Rights
Keyword: national statistics | removal | migration control | cross-border cooperation | harmonisation law | EU migration policy | right of asylum | return migration | cooperation in home affairs

Summary: The study is split into two documents, a synoptic table (22 pages) and the main text (915 pages).

Structural and Cohesion Policies for 2020 : Tools to Overcome the Crisis

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-11-2011
Author: Esther KRAMER | Albert MASSOT MARTI | Irina POPESCU | Piero SOAVE | Marc THOMAS | Ana Maria NOGUEIRA

Policy area: Culture | Transport | Agriculture and Rural Development | Fisheries | Regional Development | Tourism | Education
Keyword: education policy | economic and social cohesion | transport network | tourism policy | economic recession | EU growth strategy | regional policy | common fisheries policy | common agricultural policy | multiannual financial framework

Summary: This note illustrates the crucial contribution of structural and cohesion policies to the "Europe 2020" strategy. It also highlights the role that the Parliament could play in strengthening these policies, which are all subject to the ordinary legislative procedure and will all undergo a far-reaching reform by 2014.

The Comparative Study of the Cultural Products and Services Industry EU-USA

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-07-2003
External author: EUCLID (Liverpool, United Kingdom)

Policy area: Culture | Intellectual Property Law | Industry
Keyword: United States | artistic creation | economic value | culture industry | comparative study | EU financing | literary and artistic property | digital technology | communications industry | interactive network | intellectual property

Summary: The focus of the study is the cultural products and services industries in the EU, and similar sectors in the US. There have been a number of definitions of the cultural industries sector proposed by various governments and other agencies, and this study will focus on the following sectors as they are generally acknowledged as the main areas of potential economic impact:
- Audiovisual: including cinema, video and DVD
- Broadcasting: including television and radio
- The music recording industry
- Publishing

The main purpose of this study is to identify a range of options that the European Parliament could consider, and perhaps adopt as European Community strategy.
Human Enhancement

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-05-2009

External author: Christopher COENEN (ITAS), Mirjam SCHUIJFF (Rathenau Institute), Martijn SMITS (Rathenau Institute), Pim KLAASSEN (University of Amsterdam), Leonhard HENNEN (ITAS), Michael RADER (ITAS) and Gregor WOLBRING (University of Calgary)

Policy area: Research Policy | Social Policy | Public Health
Keyword: nanotechnology | genetic engineering | cultural pluralism | pharmaceutical product | bio-ethics | globalisation | new technology

Summary: The study attempts to bridge the gap between visions on human enhancement (HE) and the relevant technoscientific developments. It outlines possible strategies of how to deal with HE in a European context, identifying a reasoned pro-enhancement approach, a reasoned restrictive approach and a case-by-case approach as viable options for the EU. The authors propose setting up a European body (temporary committee or working group) for the development of a normative framework that guides the formulation of EU policies on HE.

Study EN

Impact of the Work of the European Parliament and Its Committee on Employment and Social Affairs on the Communities' Social Legislation

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-1999

External author: Toby KING (King's College, London University, UK) and Mary BROWNE (Dublin City University, Ireland)

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Social Policy | Employment
Keyword: labour market | social legislation | employment policy | working conditions | living conditions | European Parliament | Treaty of Amsterdam

Summary: This study analyses the impact of the European Parliament on the social policy aspects of the Treaty of Amsterdam, on the Luxembourg European Council on Employment and on each of the twenty-three legislative acts concerning social policy adopted by the Council between September 1994 and December 1998. Each piece of legislation is evaluated separately, by analysing the Commission's and the Council's reaction to Parliament's amendments. It also considers the impact of Parliament's five own-initiative reports on social policy.

Study ES, DA, DE, EL, EN, FR, IT, NL, PT, FI, SV

Economic Recovery Packages in EU Member States - Compilation of Briefing Papers

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-01-2009

External author: David Saha and Jakob von Weizsäcker (Bruegel), Guillermo de la Dehesa, Sylvester C. W. Eijffinger, Jean-Paul Fitoussi, Jean-Pierre Patat, Leon Podkaminer, Norbert Waller, Charles Wyplosz

Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: economic recovery | fiscal policy | banking

Summary: Compilation of briefing papers analyzing "Economic Recovery Packages" in EU Member States, written by ECON's panel of monetary policy experts, including also a contribution by Bruegel estimating the size (in % of GDP) of the fiscal stimuli in Member States, and comparing these to China and the US.

Study EN

Changing of the Guard - Monetary Dialogue, October 2011

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2011

External author: Guntram B. WOLFF (Bruegel, Brussels - with research assistance by Silvia MERLER), Charles WYPLOSZ (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva), Sylvester C. W. EIJFFINGER (CentER and EBC, Tilburg University and CEPR), Daniel GROS (CEPS), Guillermo DE LA DEHESA (CEPR and OBCE), Anne SIBERT (Birkbeck, University of London and CEPR), Karl WHELAN (University College Dublin), Ansgar BELKE (DIW Berlin and University of Duisburg-Essen) and Stefan COLLIGNON (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa and Centro Europa Ricerche - CER, Rome)

Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: president of an institution | European Investment Bank | public debt | monetary crisis | anti-crisis plan | monetary policy

Summary: On 31 October 2011, the eight years term of Mr Jean-Claude Trichet as ECB President will end. Mr Mario Draghi will succeed in office. This change of leadership in the ECB comes at a pivotal time for the euro area and the European Union as a whole. In this compilation nine monetary policy experts review the Trichet Presidency, especially evaluate the difference that the President has made through his own person and evaluate the challenges with which the new ECB President, Mr Draghi, has to deal with.

Study EN
To Each their Own: The Southern Caucasus and Iranian Influence

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 05-03-2013
Author: Fernando GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN

Policy area: International Trade | Energy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | energy supply | Iran | pipeline transport | energy cooperation | bilateral relations | international sanctions | trade relations | Caucasus countries | foreign policy

Summary: The Southern Caucasus region matters to the European Union for economic, energy and political reasons. Yet the states of the Southern Caucasus — Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia — are also important to their southern neighbour, Iran. Realpolitik in the region dictates that the EU balance its relations with its local partners at the same time that Iran, sanctioned by the EU and others, makes various economic, cultural, and political inroads with its pliable neighbours.

Each Southern Caucasus state has a distinct relation with the EU and with Iran. Each must set the realities of its current situation against its western aspirations. Since the adoption of sanctions against Iran in 2010 and their subsequent reinforcement, the EU has also been obliged to consider Iran's influence on regional politics. While the EU's interest in the region is based on more than its concerns about Iran, this facet of the Southern Caucasus's complicated balance of power cannot be ignored.

Budgetary Policy Tools for Economic Recovery

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-03-2010
External author: Iain Begg (European Institute, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom)
Policy area: Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: economic recovery | public finance | budget policy

Summary: Budgetary policy affects economic prospects both through a demand channel, with macroeconomic effects that depend on the net balance in the public sector accounts, and through various supply effects which are more microeconomic in character. The latter depend on various dimensions of the composition of public spending and revenue raising, and give rise to issues concerning the quality of public finances. This paper explains the different mechanisms involved, considers how the quality of public finances can be enhanced in the recovery and discusses how the sustainability of public finances can be assured as part of a recovery strategy.

Innovation and Industrial Policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2011
External author: European Techno-Economic Policy Support Network (ETEPS) with contribution from: Anette Braun (Future Technologies Consulting of VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH), Vera Grimm (Future Technologies Consulting of VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH), Sabine Korte (Future Technologies Consulting of VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH), Sylvie Rijkers-Defrasne (Future Technologies Consulting of VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH) and René Wintjes (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht University)
Policy area: Research Policy | Industry
Keyword: natural resources | demography | competitiveness | benchmarking | research and development | EU industrial policy | innovation | globalisation | new technology

Summary: Following the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, great efforts have been undertaken by most Member States to further improve their innovation support. Moreover, the European Commission aims at a more coherent, more coordinated approach towards innovation policy. The present study gives advice on how innovation policy could be better integrated with industrial and research policy based on a comparative analysis at country level and an in-depth examination of a sample of nine different European sectors.

Study EN
Executive summary DE, FR
**Legislative Proposals on EU Economic Governance : What is Missing within and beyond ?**

**Publication type**: Study  
**Date**: 15-11-2010  
**External author**: Daniel GROS (CEPS), Stefan GERLACH (University of Frankfurt and CEPR), Sylvester EIJFFINGER (Tilburg University and CEPR), Karl WHELAN (University College Dublin) and Ansgar BELKE (DIW Berlin and University of Duisburg-Essen)  
**Policy area**: Economics and Monetary Issues  
**Keyword**: simplification of legislation | economic convergence | economic planning | legislative drafting | coordination of EMU policies | financial policy  
**Summary**: The extensive legislative package introduced by the Commission on 29 September 2010 is the "most comprehensive response to the new geopolitical landscape in the EU and the euro area since the launch of the Economic and Monetary Union. Broader and enhanced surveillance of fiscal policies, but also macroeconomic policies and structural reforms is sought in the light of the shortcomings of the existing legislation. New enforcement mechanisms are foreseen for non-compliant Member States". The novelty for the legislative process is that in a large part of this package, the European Parliament is a co-legislator (in the ordinary legislative procedure). In line with this increased responsibility, work in the EP has started without delay. This compilation includes five briefing papers from the ECON Monetary Expert Panel as reactions to the legislative package. Experts were asked on the one hand, help the European Parliament identify critical missing or redundant/unworkable elements within the Commission package, and, on the other hand, identify what (if anything) is missing outside and beyond the proposals in order to make the whole package of governance reform complete and workable.

Study **EN**

**Proceedings of the Workshop on "Union for the Mediterranean : The Way Forward"**

**Publication type**: In-Depth Analysis  
**Date**: 07-08-2012  
**External author**: BEHR Timo (Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Helsinki, Finland), YOUNGS Richard (FRIDE, Madrid, Spain) and MOISSERON Jean Yves (Institut de Recherche pour le développement, Paris, France)  
**Policy area**: Foreign Affairs  
**Keyword**: regional cooperation | Mediterranean third countries | political unrest | Middle East | Union for the Mediterranean  
**Summary**: The Arab uprisings have changed the domestic and the regional context of the Southern Mediterranean. The EU’s response to the new geopolitical landscape in the EU and the euro area since the launch of the Economic and Monetary Union. Broader and enhanced surveillance of fiscal policies, but also macroeconomic policies and structural reforms is sought in the light of the shortcomings of the existing legislation. New enforcement mechanisms are foreseen for non-compliant Member States". The novelty for the legislative process is that in a large part of this package, the European Parliament is a co-legislator (in the ordinary legislative procedure). In line with this increased responsibility, work in the EP has started without delay. This compilation includes five briefing papers from the ECON Monetary Expert Panel as reactions to the legislative package. Experts were asked on the one hand, help the European Parliament identify critical missing or redundant/unworkable elements within the Commission package, and, on the other hand, identify what (if anything) is missing outside and beyond the proposals in order to make the whole package of governance reform complete and workable.

In-Depth Analysis **EN, FR**

**The Implementation of Article 80 TFEU - on the Principle of Solidarity and Fair Sharing of Responsibility, Including its Financial Implications, between the Member States in the Field of Border Checks, Asylum and Immigration**

**Publication type**: Study  
**Date**: 15-04-2011  
**External author**: Research and report writing:  
  Dirk Vanheule (Project Director), Joanne van Selm and Christina Boswell (Eurasylum Ltd.)  
  Quality assurance:  
  Solon Arditis (Eurasylum Ltd.)  
**Policy area**: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy. Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
**Keyword**: border control | migration control | joint competence | immigration | right of asylum | trafficking in human beings | refugee | Treaty of Lisbon  
**Summary**: The study assesses the scope and implications of Article 80 TFEU, which relates to the principle of solidarity in the field of Border Checks, Asylum and Immigration. The study analyses primary and secondary sources of European law in order to identify the implications of Article 80 TFEU in terms of obligations and jurisdiction. It also discusses the results of a questionnaire that was administered to senior public officials in the EU, collecting their views on the scope and possible mode of implementation of Article 80 TFEU. The study’s conclusions outline some practical solutions for the implementation of new solidarity mechanisms in the field of EU immigration and asylum policies.

Study **ES, DE, EN, FR, IT**
**Eco-innovation - Putting the EU on the Path to a Resource and Energy Efficient Economy**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 16-03-2009  
**External author** (Part 1) : Raimund Bleischwitz, Bettina Bahn-Walkowiak, Wolfgang Irrek, Phillip Schepelmann (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy, Germany); Friedrich Schmidt-Bleek (Factor 10 Institute, France), Stefan Giljum, Stephan Lutter, Lisa Bohunovski, Friedrich Hinterberger (SERI Nachhaltigkeitsforschung und Kommunikations, Austria); Elizabeth Hawkins, Michael Kuhndt, Nadine Pratt (UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production, Germany). (Part 2) : Arnold Black (Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Network, UK); Geert van der Veen (Technopolis, the Netherlands); Birgit Eggl (Forseo, Germany).  
**Policy area** Environment | Energy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Industry  
**Keyword** natural resources | clean technology | exploitation of resources | EU policy | energy efficiency | sustainable mobility | Framework Programme for Research and Development | sustainable development | innovation  
**Summary** This publication on Eco-Innovation includes a study and three briefing notes. The study addresses the following issues: Why is the issue of resource scarcity back on the agenda? What are the strategic conclusions for the EU? What can the EU expect from eco-innovation in a large range of industrial sectors? Are existing measures meeting the EU aims and expectations, and what new policy initiatives should be set forward? To meet these objectives, this study give an overview on resource scarcities, elaborates on ecoinnovation, including trends, barriers and driving forces and outlines proposals for future EU policies and a possible vision for the future. Three briefing notes complement the study by providing further insights on: (i) the challenges, drivers and barriers to Eco-Innovation in the private sector (UK context), (ii) the assessment of national public policies promoting eco-innovation (focusing on the Netherlands), and (iii) identifying public funding mechanisms featuring innovative and effective approaches.  
Study EN

**Endangered languages in the EU**

**Publication type** At a Glance  
**Date** 05-09-2013  
**Author** Sarah SHEIL  
**Policy area** Education  
**Keyword** EU action | cultural pluralism | regional language | multilingualism | language policy | minority language  
**Summary** In line with wider global trends, many languages currently spoken in Europe are endangered and some are at imminent risk of extinction.  
At a Glance EN

**Euro Area Governance - Ideas for Crisis Management Reform**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-09-2010  
**Author** Doris KOLASSA | Stephanie HONNEFELDER | Arttu MAKIPAA  
**External author** Chapter 2 – Assessment of Crisis Management in the EU in 2010, the EFSM and EFSF  
Sony KAPOOR, Managing Director, Re-Define  
Stefan GERLACH, Professor, Goethe University of Frankfurt  
Karl WHELAN, Professor, University College Dublin  
Chapter 3 – Orderly Sovereign Default  
Kern ALEXANDER, Professor, University of Cambridge  
Marco LAMANDINI, Professor, University of Bologna  
Chapter 4 - Eurobonds  
Alessandro MISSALE, Professor, Universita degli Studi Milano, and Carlo FAVERO, Bocconi University Milan  
Association of Financial Markets Europe (AFME), London  
**Policy area** Economics and Monetary Issues  
**Keyword** economic recession | financial control | public debt | stability programme | anti-crisis plan | euro area | Eurobond  
**Summary** This compilation study tackles the question of euro area and EU governance reform from the perspective of (sovereign) crisis management. It focuses predominantly on crisis mitigation and resolution mechanisms (rather than crisis prevention). The introduction briefly discusses the origins and effects of the crisis for the euro area as well as the whole of EU27. The study goes on to summarize and compare the contributions and to provide a brief legal evaluation and an extensive chronology. The contributions in chapter 2 analyze the impact and future of the crisis management institutions decided in May 2010 - the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) as well as the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM). Chapter 3 considers the market impact and institutional design of sovereign default. Chapter 4 looks at commonly issued bonds (Eurobonds). The compilation study is a collection of contributions from practitioners and academics alike.  
Study ES, DE, EN, FR
Production and Use of Biofuels in Developing Countries

Publication type Study
Date 04-05-2009
External author Steve Wiggins and Chris Stevens (Overseas Development Institute) ; Ruth Nussbaum and Kate Bottrell (ProForest)
Policy area Environment | Energy | Agriculture and Rural Development | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Keyword climate change | poverty | food price | developing countries | biofuel | price increase | rural development | new technology | agricultural labour force
Summary This brief examines some of the key issues surrounding biofuels and developing countries and makes recommendations for European Union policy to prevent or limit damage from biofuel development, and to take advantage of opportunities. [...]
Study EN

Exchange of Information and Data between Law Enforcement Authorities within the European Union

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-04-2009
External author Leon Hempel, Michael Carius and Carla Ilten (Technical University of Berlin, Germany)
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword database | European security | EU police cooperation | fight against crime | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | terrorism | exchange of information | cross-frontier data flow | personal data
Summary Over the last one and a half decades, transnational information exchange between law enforcement authorities within the European Union has been stepped up considerably. This process was originally triggered by the abolition of national borders within the Schengen Area. In the meantime, the process is fed by an ever–growing number of perceived security threats, a misled belief in the problem–solving capacity of technology and a policy of overbidding between some Member States and the EU level. The goal of this process is to establish a pan–European regime of internal security. This paper discusses the legislative aspect of this process and considers its organising principle(s). The paper provides a review of operational and planned databases and systems of information exchange within the EU. It clarifies some of the central concepts in the field of automated information exchange. It describes some of the procedures of information exchange between law enforcement authorities. It identifies some of the side effects of transnational information exchange. Finally, it makes some recommendations how to better manage apparatuses and practises.
In-Depth Analysis EN, FR

Implementing the UNESCO Convention in EU’s Internal Policies

Publication type Study
Date 14-05-2010
External author Mira Burri, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland
Policy area Culture | Intellectual Property Law
Keyword UN convention | broadcasting | impact of information technology | Unesco | cultural difference | culture industry | cultural pluralism | cultural promotion | audiovisual communications policy | copyright
Summary The briefing note provides an analysis of how the existent EU internal policies reflect the spirit and the letter of the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity. The note suggests further ideas on how the EU may calibrate current practices and explores in a forward-looking manner the possibilities for the Convention’s implementation in future internal policies, understood both as hard and soft EU legal instruments. Particular attention in this query is paid to digital media and their regulatory implications.
Study DE, EN, FR

Poverty and social exclusion of disabled people

Publication type Briefing
Date 18-07-2011
Author András SCHWARCZ
Policy area Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword official statistics | poverty | aid to disadvantaged groups | disability insurance | EU action | child | discrimination based on disability | fight against unemployment | marginalisation
Summary Surveys show that over 16% of the EU's working age population suffers from long standing health problems or disabilities. There is a strong link between disability and poverty and social exclusion. Disabled people are more likely to live in income poverty. They are also more likely to experience aspects of social exclusion: lower employment rate, higher unemployment, lower education levels, lower wages, discrimination and poor health. Disabled children are among the most vulnerable groups in society.
Briefing EN
Can the Central African Republic Escape its Violent Past?

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 04-06-2013  
**Author** Judit BARNA

**Policy area** Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Human Rights  
**Keyword** humanitarian aid | regional security | establishment of peace | Central African Republic | political situation | public safety | multinational force | child protection | civilian victim | rule of law | human rights

**Summary** The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains volatile two months after the rebel Séléka coalition seized the capital and forced the country's former president into exile. Rampant violations of humanitarian and human rights law exacerbate the suffering of the population. The Séléka takeover ushered in a total collapse of the rule of law and fundamental institutions such as the justice system, law enforcement apparatus, public administration and social services. Under the tutelage of the Economic Community of Central African States, a National Transitional Council was set up in April to serve as a governing body and constituent assembly for the next 18 months. French and regional forces are on the ground, and the UN is monitoring the developments through its Integrated Peace Building Office in the Central African Republic. Yet the deepening crisis is likely to require stronger and more concerted efforts — both domestic and international — to ensure that the country's tragic history of violence does not repeat itself.

**In-Depth Analysis** EN

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National Legislation on Prostitution and the Trafficking in Women and Children

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 01-09-2005  
**External author** Transcrime

**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | EU Law: Legal System and Acts  
**Keyword** sexual offence | fight against crime | national law | EU Member State | help for victims | prostitution | trafficking in human beings

**Study** EN, FR

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The Eu Presence in a Post-Status Kosovo Challenges and Opportunities

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 31-10-2007  
**External author** Tamás Szemlér

**Policy area** Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence  
**Keyword** regional security | establishment of peace | pre-accession aid | Kosovo question | EU military mission | multinational force | Kosovo

**Summary** Starting from an overview of the political background of the Kosovo issue, rooted in Serb and Albanian history, the paper then describes the main features of the current situation: "nothing more than autonomy" from one side, "nothing less than independence" for the other. Against this background, the authors then examine the recently formulated vision of EU involvement in Kosovo after the status settlement, as set out in a series of joint reports by High Representative Solana and Commissioner Rehn over the last couple of years. This is followed by a concise description and critical evaluation of the EU record in Kosovo since 1999 and a brief discussion of the challenges that await the planned EU rule of law mission and other EU actions in Kosovo. Linkages with other EU instruments and policies are also considered in this context, as is the broader context of activities by other actors of the international community involved in the Kosovo issue. The paper concludes on a number of recommendations regarding future EU activities in Kosovo, as well as their impact on the stability of Kosovo's direct and wider neighbourhood. These address both the EU's material presence in and financial support for Kosovo itself, and the need to clarify membership prospects - and conditions - for the whole region.

**In-Depth Analysis** EN

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Structural and Cohesion Policies and the Fight against Poverty

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 14-01-2011  
**Author** Goncalo MACEDO | Kathrin Maria RUDOLF | Jesus IBORRA MARTIN | Felice ADINOLFI

**Policy area** Culture | Transport | Agriculture and Rural Development | Fisheries | Regional Development | Education  
**Keyword** poverty | education policy | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | economic recession | cultural policy | common transport policy | common fisheries policy | common agricultural policy | social integration

**Summary** This note examines what role, if any, the EU's 'structural policies' play in fighting poverty and social exclusion. The latter include regional policy, the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the Common Transport Policy and education/culture policies. It also analyses these policies and sectors against the background of the economic and financial crisis.

**Study** EN, FR
Whistleblowing Rules : Best Practice - Assessment and Revision of Rules Existing in EU Institutions

Publication type Study
Date 15-05-2006

External author Björn ROHDE-LIEBENAU (RCC Risk Communication Concepts, Hamburg, Germany)

Policy area Budgetary Control
Keyword regulations for civil servants | professional ethics | European civil service | corruption | fraud against the EU

Summary The study explains the concept of "whistleblowing" and its importance notably for risk management. It reports different approaches from UK, USA and from other law traditions. From this it distills 18 elements constituting Best Practice and which can be used for benchmarking. The current rules on whistleblowing in EU institutions are described and discussed in their context. The assessment against the benchmarks leads to proposals for a revision of these rules.

Study EN

Executive summary DE, FR

War Remnants and the Pollution of the Sea - Workshop Summary

Publication type Study
Date 16-03-2009

Author Gerrard QUILLE

Policy area Environment | Security and Defence
Keyword conventional weapon | Germany | Lithuania | chemical weapon | Baltic Sea | degradation of the environment | marine pollution | Sweden | Denmark | environmental impact

Summary On the 16th of March 2009 the Policy Department in DG-EXPO organised a workshop on behalf of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE). The theme of the workshop centred upon the complex of issues resulting from the large amount of war remnants that were dumped in the Baltic Sea following the two World Wars of the twentieth century. The technological, environmental, and financial aspects of the debate were covered as well as the contemporary political controversies related to gas supply lines. This combination of political, historical and technical issues resulted in a rich exchange between Members of the European Parliament and external experts.

This workshop summary provides an overview on the issues raised during the meeting. It is not intended as a verbatim reproduction of the event. The summary and programme are used as a means to disseminate the workshop presentations which should be useful to those interested in the details of the presentations as well as those who were unable to attend.

Study EN

Opportunity and Feasibility of Establishing Common Support Services for EU Agencies

Publication type Study
Date 06-04-2009

External author Jann Werner, Bastian Jantz, Julia Fleischer, Thurid Hustedt and Tobias Bach

Policy area Budget | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Employment
Keyword staff regulations | administrative expenditure (EU) | EU office or agency | administrative cooperation | financial regulation | Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union | budgetary procedure | EPSO

Summary EU decentralised agencies are submitted to some financial and administrative requirements initially established for the EU Institutions (e.g. arising from Staff Regulation, Financial Regulation). Given the size of most of them, a significant proportion of their staff is dealing with administrative tasks.

The study aimed at proposing ways to address these issues. Following, among others, a survey among decentralised Agencies, it presents conclusions and recommendations as to:
- existing common support services, mainly at Commission's level;
- further functional areas suitable for shared services, such as those related to the budgetary process, procurement procedures and legal advice;
and the possible organisation of such shared services for EU Agencies.

Study EN

Gas disputes in the eastern Mediterranean

Publication type Briefing
Date 28-01-2013

Author Francesco PONTROLI GOBBI

Policy area Energy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword Cyprus | Mediterranean Sea | energy resources | natural gas | Syria | Turkey | Lebanon | Israel | gas field | Egypt

Summary Discoveries of gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean have brought both opportunities and challenges to the entire region. Although political uncertainty has clouded the whole picture, energy is emerging as the dominant issue for the future of the region.

Briefing EN
The Situation of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 29-10-2007  
External author: Thomas de Waal with Tabib Huseynov and Julia Kharashvili  
Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs  
Keyword: aid to refugees | Armenia | Georgia | forced migration | civil war | civilian victim | refugee | Azerbaijan

The Implementation of the Integrated Guidelines during the 2006/2007 Policy Cycle

Publication type: Study  
Date: 05-03-2007  
External author: Professor Iain Begg, London School of Economics  
Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)  
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues  
Keyword: economic growth | economic development | job creation | sustainable development | economic reform | social security

"Climate Refugees" - Legal and Policy Responses to Environmentally Induced Migration

Publication type: Study  
Date: 07-12-2011  
External author: Albert KRALER (ICMPD), Tatiana CERNEI (ICMPD) and Marion NOACK (ICMPD)  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Environment  
Keyword: climate change | EU migration policy | integration of migrants | forced migration | refugee | environmental cooperation

Summary: This study sets out to examine the legal and policy aspects of climate and environmental related displacement. It assesses to what extent the current EU framework for immigration and asylum in general and the specific instruments in regard to asylum in particular already offer adequate response to climate induced displacement and how the legal framework could evolve in order to provide an improved response to the phenomenon of environmentally induced migration. The study also clarifies in which way such a modified legal framework can be rooted in the Lisbon Treaty including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The Increase in Kurdish Women Committing Suicide

Publication type: Study  
Date: 04-06-2007  
External author: Projet kurde des droits de l'homme, Dublin  
Policy area: Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Education | Public Health  
Keyword: Afghanistan | Iraq | forced marriage | access to education | government violence | Turkey | domestic violence | position of women | Kurdistan question | suicide

Summary: This study provides an in-depth analysis of the root causes of the increase in female suicides in the Kurdish community in Turkey and Iraq. It analyses the factors dominating women’s lives in those Kurdish regions which as such may be contributory factors to the suicide rate. Such factors include their socio-economic situation, their particular geo-political situation, the impact of long-term conflict, and the social and institutional obstacles to gender equality and Kurdish women’s rights. It also compares the situation of Kurdish women to that of Afghan women.

Transgender people in the EU

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 15-11-2010  
Author: Piotr BAKOWSKI  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Social Policy  
Keyword: discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | right to health | right to work | legal status | aesthetic surgery

Summary: Transgender people constitute a varied, yet distinct group facing specific social and legal problems. It has been reported that in most EU MS, transgender people do not enjoy adequate access to healthcare. The unemployment rate of transgender people is high when compared to general society. When employed, they are often discriminated against at the workplace. Changing gender is subject to many conditions and the acquired gender is not automatically recognised. Questions arise as to whether relevant procedures do not entail breaches of fundamental rights.
The European Parliament and the Human Rights Situation in Latin America

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-08-1999
External author: Dr Barahona De Brito, Institute for Strategic and International Studies, Lisbon (P)
Policy area: Democracy | Human Rights
Keyword: death penalty | violence | democracy | repression | political violence | European Parliament | drug traffic | rule of law | Latin America | human rights
Summary: The study is divided into four parts: the first, Human Rights in Latin America, attempts to explain why violations persist despite the existence of elected governments. The second part, Other Human Rights Concerns, shows how legal action has been taken on the rights of women and children at the international, regional and national level. The third part, Democracy and Human Rights: The Vital link, examines the links between human rights performances and democratic consolidation. Finally, The European Union and Human Rights in Latin America shows how the EU has developed a political and foreign policy identity in terms of the promotion of democracy and human rights. The report ends with some recommendations for immediate, medium-term, and long-term action.

Study EN

Executive summary XL

Bullying at Work

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 01-08-2001
External author: Frank Lorho, Ulrich HILP
Policy area: Employment
Keyword: social impact | occupational psychology | data collection | workplace | quality of life | working environment
Summary: Bullying at work: Phenomenon which is not a single action but a series of one or several different harassing actions over a period of time. The study considers the current legal situation in the Member States of the European Union. It also offers propositions to fight workplace bullying and investigates how far the European Union could possibly carry those measures into effect.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

The Price of Non-Peace: The Need for a Strengthened Role for the European Union in the Middle East

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-09-1999
External author: Italian Centre for Peace in the Middle East, Milan, Italy
Policy area: Democracy | Security and Defence
Keyword: peaceful co-existence | the EU's international role | Israel | terrorism | Palestine question | Middle East | Palestine
Summary: As the authors' preface indicates, this document attempts to calculate the price of 'non-peace' in the Middle East. To this end, the authors have gathered information and data on events in the region, in particular between Israel and the Palestinians, from 1993 onwards. They also publish conversations they have had with people with particular experience or understanding of these events. Transcriptions of these conversations provide a framework, and the work is structured in three chapters: Israel, the Palestinian Territories and the international organisations.

Study EN

Policy Implications of Increased Debt Issuance and Rising Deficits - Topic 2 - Monetary Dialogue March 2010

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-03-2010
External author: Ansgar Belke (DIW Berlin and University of Duisburg-Essen) ; Guillermo de la Dehesa (Chairman of the CEPR and the OBCE) ; Daniel Gros (CEPS) in collaboration with Thomas Mayer (Deutsche Bank Group, London) ; Sylvester Eijffinger (CentER and European Banking Center, Tilburg University) and Charles Wyplosz (Institute of Graduate Studies, Geneva)
The summary has been drafted by Christoph SCHMIEDEL (European Parliament, DG IPOL)
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: stability pact | public debt | monetary crisis | anti-crisis plan | euro area
Summary: The third Monetary Dialogue of the 7th Parliament is scheduled to take place on 22 March 2010 in Brussels. This compilation of briefing papers is written by members of the Monetary Experts Panel of ECON advising the Committee on monetary policy questions. It includes five contributions on policy options regarding rising debt levels and deficits, as well as a summary of the papers. Another compilation on the "The Future Development of Global Imbalances", the other topic of the Monetary Dialogue in March 2010, is published simultaneously (see the document n° PE 433.445).

Study EN
The Information of the Citizen in the EU: Obligations for the Media and the Institutions Concerning the Citizen's Right to Be Fully and Objectively Informed

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-08-2004
External author: Deirdre Kevin, Thorsten Ader, Oliver Carsten Fueg, Eleftheria Pertzinidou, Max Schoenthal, European Institute for the Media, Düsseldorf.
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Culture
Keyword: merger control | programmes industry | dissemination of information | pluralism in the media | communications profession | right to information | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | mass communications
Study: DE, EN

The Social Dimension of Enlargement : Social Law and Policy in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-04-1998
External author: Gesellschaft für Versicherungswissenschaft und -gestaltung e.V. (GVG), Köln, Germany
Keyword: Hungary | labour market | Poland | Czechia | social policy | labour relations | Slovenia | Estonia | occupational safety | social security legislation
Summary: The report provides detailed background information on the five countries' social policy and practice before and after the economic transition. It evaluates the main problems for accession to the European Union and discusses the possible solutions to these problems.
Study: EN
Executive summary: ES, DA, DE, EL, EN, FR, NL, PT, FI, SV

Briefing Notes on Consumer Financial Education

Publication type: Study
Date: 29-05-2008
External author: Associated Prof. Mrs. Zita Čeponytė (Lithuanian Consumer Institute)
Dr. Wilhelm Ruprecht (Senior Economist GDV European Office)
Assistant Professor Christos Vl. Gortsos (Panteion University of Athens)
Ms Jane Welch, (British Institute of International and Comparative Law)
Mr. Manfred Westphal (Head of Financial Services Department, Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband, vzvb)
Policy area: Consumer Protection | Financial and Banking Issues | Education
Keyword: consumer information | dissemination of information | public awareness campaign | advertising | market research
Study: EN

Issues where Parliament Made a Difference in Structural and Cohesion Policies

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-01-2009
Author: Albert MASSOT MARTI | Nils DANKLEFSEN | Ivana KATSAROVA | Jesus IBORRA MARTIN | Constanze ITZEL
Policy area: Culture | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Transport | Agriculture and Rural Development |
Fisheries | Regional Development | Education
Keyword: education policy | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | powers of the EP | common transport policy | youth policy | common fisheries policy | common agricultural policy
Summary: This note provides information on issues where the European Parliament has played an important role in the current legislature, starting in 2004. It is structured following a committee-by-committee approach and covers the fields of transport, regional development, agriculture, fisheries, and culture and education.
Study: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV
Direct Payments in the CAP post 2013

**Publication type**: Study

**Date**: 14-01-2011

**External author**: Stefan TANGERMANN (Professor Emeritus, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, University of Göttingen, Germany)

**Policy area**: Environment | Food Safety | Agriculture and Rural Development

**Keyword**: climate change | sustainable agriculture | farmers' income | aid to agriculture | reform of the CAP

**Summary**: The Communication identifies crucial challenges, above all the need for EU agriculture to provide public goods. However, only limited changes to the CAP are proposed. Rather than making a determined move towards targeted measures, direct payments are supposed to continue forming the backbone of the support regime. The “greening component” cannot really improve the targeting of payments. Redistribution of payments across Member States may or may not enhance equity and will not improve the provision of public goods.

Study  EN

Comparative Study on the Legal Systems of the Protection of Adults Lacking Legal Capacity - National Rules of Private Law, of Private International Law and a Possible Legislative Initiative of the European Union (United Kingdom, France, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Romania)

**Publication type**: Study

**Date**: 14-11-2008

**External author**: Institut suisse de Droit comparé (Lausanne, Suisse)

**Policy area**: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Public international law | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters

**Keyword**: judicial cooperation in civil matters in the EU | legal capacity | national law | EU initiative | international convention | private international law

**Summary**: This study provides an in-depth and objective comparative analysis of the legal systems of protection of adults lacking legal capacity within selected EU Member States. The first two parts of the study contain for each Member State concerned a detailed description and assessment of the national provisions of private law and of international private law on the protection of adults lacking legal capacity. The final part of the study indicates and evaluates the advantages and the possible content of a legislative initiative of the UE in the field of the protection in crossborder situations of adults lacking legal capacity.

Study  EN, FR

Youth Policy and Participation in the EU

**Publication type**: In-Depth Analysis

**Date**: 16-03-2009

**Author**: Goncalo MACEDO

**Policy area**: Social Policy | Education

**Keyword**: participatory democracy | student mobility | youth movement | voluntary work | youth policy | young person | educational exchange | European citizenship

**Summary**: This note provides an introduction to the current status of the European Union's Youth Policy, in the context of the debate over its reform. It focuses in particular on the theme of the political and civic participation of young people.

In-Depth Analysis  DE, EN, FR

Inshore Fisheries: The Problems Encountered by Inshore Fishermen

**Publication type**: Study

**Date**: 17-10-2005

**External author**: Centro Tecnológico del Mar – Fundación CETMAR, Spain

**Policy area**: Environment | Economics and Monetary Issues | Fisheries

**Keyword**: traditional fishing | fisherman | FIFG | inshore fishing | fishery management | distribution of EU funding | Community fisheries | fishing regulations | small business

**Summary**: This document aims to provide accurate and structured information to the EP Fisheries Committee about: the importance of small inshore fishing; and the specific social, economic and environmental problems of the sector in Member States. The discussion is structured so that the final conclusions and recommendations are based on an inventory reflecting the state of affairs in each Member State and an exposition of the key issues of small inshore fisheries at the Community level, with specific references to Member States.

Study  XL, ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PT
Youth participation in EP elections

Publication type Briefing
Date 19-08-2011
Author Piotr BAKOWSKI
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Education
Keyword European election | disaffection of young people | turnout of voters | political involvement | civics | election monitoring | election campaign
Summary Young people have been among the least likely voters to turn out in European Parliament (EP) elections. Moreover, the electoral turnout of 18–24 year olds has continued to decrease, as evidenced by survey data from the 2009 elections.

Human Rights in Russia Year 2006

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 27-11-2006
External author Svetlana Gannushkina
Policy area Human Rights
Keyword right to housing | ethnic discrimination | Chechen question | freedom of assembly | independence of the judiciary | Russia | protection of minorities | repression | corruption | human rights

Centres for Third Country Nationals

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 10-07-2006
External author Mathieu Bietlot (GERME – Université Libre de Bruxelles) under the supervision of Elspeth Guild
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Human Rights
Keyword migration control | EU migration policy | admission of aliens | foreign national | prison system
Summary The term ‘camp’ identifies all the premises where those third country nationals intending to enter the European Union are involuntarily placed. This concept includes all the systems of imprisonment by which the immigrant is deprived of his/her rights and liberties. While the camp can be ‘open’ or ‘closed’, the close nature usually predominates in practice. An EU policy dealing with the reception of asylum seekers and their accommodation in camps is still in its infancy. The discretionary power exercised by the Member States in this field is very important. Also, there is a wide diversity of camps for third country nationals in Europe. Special attention needs to be paid to the respect of fundamental rights and the individual needs by each third country national who might be residing in camps. This is at times difficult to ensure due to size of the camps, the lack of resources as well as because of the negative image linked to those immigrants who are placed in these camps. Also, in practical terms there is some confusion among the different statuses of the immigrants who are might be found in the camps. Finally, the statistical data concerning how many third country nationals are actually inside camps has not been yet centralized nor at EU level neither at national level.

The Work of the Committee on Women's Rights 1994-1999

Publication type Study
Date 01-06-1999
Author Eva BACELAR
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword EP Committee | women's rights
Summary This document is divided into five parts concerning the composition and powers of this committee, the development of the committee up to 1999, a summary of the European Parliament's resolutions concerning women's rights, the hearings, the opinions and the delegations of the Committee on Women's Rights outside Parliament. The annexes contain various documents which appeared during the parliamentary term and a summary of the resolutions adopted.

The Management Framework of EU Delegations' Development Work in ACP Countries. Case Study: Zimbabwe

Publication type Study
Date 01-11-1997
Author Serena FORESI
Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword financial management | staff regulations | Lomé Convention | EDF | development aid | administrative cooperation | Zimbabwe | diplomatic representation | ACP-EU institution
Summary The paper describes the Delegations' role as an intermediary between the host country and the Commission headquarters and the conditions under which this role is carried out.

07-02-2020 Source : © European Union, 2020 - EP
Ways and means to enhance ACP parliaments' role in the formulation of the Country Strategy Papers (CSP) and parliaments' oversight of the utilisation of the European Development Funds (EDF), especially in the context of budget support

Publication type: Study
Date: 23-03-2005
External author: Dr. Robert Dover
EU Policy Network
Policy area: Budget | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Keyword: development policy | ACP countries | powers of parliament | use of aid | national parliament | EDF | development aid | European Parliament
Summary: The aim of this study is to provide a concise and readable set of analysis and recommendations towards enhancing the role of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of Parliaments in the formulation of the Country Strategy Papers (CSP) and the European Parliament’s (EP) oversight of the utilisation of the European Development Funds (EDF), with particular reference to budget support. The policy recommendations provided within this study are made within the existing constitutional orders in force, and aim to improve oversight and governance of the EDF and direct budget support monies through inter-institutional and political cultural measures.

Perspectives for the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement Study

Publication type: Study
Date: 26-02-2007
Policies area: Fisheries
Keyword: catch of fish | conservation of fish stocks | fishing agreement | international agreement | fishing vessel | fishing controls | sea fishing | sea fish
Summary: This study reviews implementation of key provisions of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (New York, 1995) in order to determine the current achievements, constraint and future perspectives for the Agreement in facilitating sustainable management of high seas fisheries resources and provides an analysis of the Agreement’s Review Conference, convened under Article 36 of the Agreement, which took place in May 2006. The study: briefly compares recent and historic assessments of the state of high seas fisheries resources, in order to determine the possible impact of the Agreement on the status of stocks; describes the processes leading to the 2006 Review Conference and the major discussions and conclusions of the Conference; and provides a detailed analysis of implementation of the Agreement both by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and by States individually. Key conclusions and recommendations are presented.

Fiscal Policy Exit Strategies

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 12-04-2010
External author: Charles Wyplosz (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland)
Policies area: Budget | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: budget deficit | financial market | stability pact | unemployment | fiscal policy | economic recession | public debt | monetary policy
Summary: The exit strategy for fiscal policies raises three questions:
1. Timing. One view that it is now time to commit to and initiate a reduction of the large budget deficits that prevail in most developed countries. Another view is that uncertainty about the recovery (time, shape, firmness) calls for flexibility and opportunism. The first view is risky as, if applied prematurely, it could capsize a fragile recovery, with dramatic economic and political consequences. The second view delays the formulation of a strategy apt at alleviating widespread fears that the budget is durably out of control. The first view cannot be relied upon and the second view needs to be completed with credible commitments.
2. Coordination. Ideally, the fiscal policy exit strategy ought to be coordinated with the monetary policy exit strategy, and with fiscal policy strategies in other countries, both in Europe and elsewhere. Such coordination has been elusive following the onset of the crisis and there is no reason to believe that it can be achieved to craft exit strategies.
3. Definition. The effort to roll back public debt is of historical proportions. All margins of action will be required: the effort will have to be spread over time and over all instruments and it will have to be underpinned by a credible long-run commitment. The Stability and Growth Pact is ill-adapted to this effort. A better framework is the adoption of balanced-budget rules, which are credible because of their legal status and which include adequate escape clauses. A good example is the amendment to the German constitution adopted in June 2009.
EU enlargement to the Western Balkans

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 08-04-2010
Author: Kalin IVANOV
Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | pre-accession aid | regional cooperation | International Criminal Tribunal | economic recession | refugee | Western Balkans | rule of law | accession to the European Union
Summary: The prospect of accession can encourage reform and reconciliation in countries aspiring to join the European Union. However, in the Western Balkans, enlargement faces serious obstacles. The legacies of war and isolation remain alive in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and in the other potential candidate countries – Albania, Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244), Montenegro, and Serbia. In addition to domestic challenges such as respecting minority rights, pre-accession reforms in these countries are discouraged by uncertainty and “enlargement fatigue” on the EU’s part. Nonetheless, both the EU and potential candidates stand to benefit from extending the continent’s area of stability and prosperity. The European Parliament supports the “European perspective” of all Western Balkan countries.

Asylum in European Union Member States:
Reception of Asylum Seekers and Examination of Asylum Applications

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-11-2005
External author: Hemme Battjes and Karin M. de Vries under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Thomas P. Spijkerboer - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: data collection | EU migration policy | freedom of movement | right of asylum | trafficking in human beings | imprisonment | foreign national | human rights

climate change–induced water stress and its impact on natural and managed ecosystems

Publication type: Study
Date: 07-01-2008
External author: Jason Anderson (ed.), Kathryn Arblaster, Justin Bartley, Tamsin Cooper, Marianne Kettunen (IEEP), Timo Kaphengst, Anna Leipprand, Cornelius Laaser, Katharina Umpfenbach (Ecologic), Esko Kuusisto, Ahti Lepistö, Maria Holmberg (SYKE)
Policy area: Environment | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: climate change | water resources | deforestation | forest | water management in agriculture | ecosystem

Altiero Spinelli - European Federalist

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2007
External author: Lucio Levi, Richard Corbett, Ortensio Zecchino, Roland Bieber, John Pinder, Paolo Ponzano, Jean-Louis Quermonne, Philippe de Schoutheeete
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: promotion of the European idea | commemoration | federalism | European Movement
Summary: The papers presented here were submitted for a symposium organised by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs in September 2007. They were reprinted at the occasion of a commemoration of Spinelli's 100th anniversary which took place in the European Parliament on 5 March 2009, in cooperation with the Lazio region.
South-South Migration Example of Sub-Saharan Africa

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 31-03-2006
External author Véronique Lassailly-Jacob
Professeur à l'Université de Poitiers
Florence Boyer
Centre Population Développement (CEPED)
Julien Brachet
Université de Paris I
Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword sub-Saharan Africa | economic development | forced migration | occupational migration | migratory movement
Summary Although migrants within the African continent number over 16 million, so far very little consideration has been given to the diverse nature of this migration. All the attention is focused on migration from South to North. It is true that the diversity and the rapid changes in regional and sub-regional situations make South-South migration difficult to classify. However, the distinction between voluntary and forced migration still applies when the accent is on the factors that prompt people to leave their homes. Also, the links between migration and development seem more complex in the case of South-South migration than in the case of migration from South to North. The former does not generate any significant revenue and has to be seen as a resource, in other words as revenue integrated into local activity systems

In-Depth Analysis EN, FR

Linking the EU’s Emissions Trading System to any Future US Emissions Trading Scheme

Publication type Study
Date 15-01-2009
External author Jason Anderson (IEEP, Institute for European Environmental Policy, London, United Kingdom), Michael Mehling (Ecologic Institute) and Harro van Asselt (IVM) ; contributions of Katharina Umpfenbach (Ecologic Institute, Berlin, Germany)
Policy area Environment | Industry
Keyword climate change | tradeable emission permit | United States | EU relations | international cooperation | greenhouse gas | competitiveness | reduction of gas emissions
Summary Executive summary As the world’s largest economy, the United States is also the largest consumer of fossil energy sources and the largest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases. Although the climate and energy policies adopted over the past decade have been insufficient to reverse continued emissions growth, a number of recent developments may cause this situation to change. A newly appointed administration and changed majorities in Congress are likely to create the most favourable conditions for ambitious federal legislation on climate policy in over a decade, while the regional, state and local levels continue to see vibrant initiatives to mitigate global warming. At all levels, emissions trading is being explored as a policy instrument to address GHG emissions. [...] 
Study EN

Inclusion of Social Elements in Impact Assessment

Publication type Study
Date 16-01-2006
External author Chiara Crepaldi (co-ordinator) and Barbara Da Roit, in collaboration with Claudio Castegnaro, Stefano Cima, Ivana Fellini, Andrea Forti, Daniela Oliva, Flavia Pesce under the scientific direction of Emanuele Ranci Ortigosa (Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale, Milano, Italy)
Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Social Policy | Employment
Keyword social impact | impact study | social indicator | research method
Summary The study reviewed if and how social elements are taken into account in Impact Assessments (IA) carried out by the European Commission before adopting legal acts and important communications to consider the effects of policy proposal in the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Quite a few Impact Assessments did not or only marginally consider social elements. Many IA cases are based on general statements and shared assumptions concerning the relations between a set of social and economic elements, without any identification of possible social indicators able to describe the impacts expected. The impacts described in the IA rarely appear “specific, measurable, accepted, realistic and time-dependent”; statistical data, evaluation reports from previous or similar programmes are not systematically used by the IA.
Study EN
The values underlying the draft common frame of reference: what role for fairness and "social justice"?

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2008
External author: Martijn W. Hesselink (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Policy area: Public international law | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Consumer Protection
Keyword: consumer protection | harmonisation law | liability | European private law | contract
Summary: This study provides an in-depth analysis of the provisions of the draft Common Frame of Reference (DCFR), in order to assess if the DCFR perceives contract law only as a tool for regulating private law relations between equally strong parties or if it contains elements of 'social justice' in favour of consumers, victims of discrimination, small and medium sized enterprises and other possibly weaker parties to contracts. After introducing the notion of social justice and its relationship to European contract law, this study explores the key social justice issues in the DCFR, their content and sources of inspiration. Finally, the last chapter draws some conclusions on the question if a balance has been struck among conflicting values and in particular between, on the one hand, individual private autonomy as expressed in the idea of freedom of contract, and on the other hand, principles of protection of weaker contracting parties responding to demands for social solidarity.

Study EN, FR

Security and Energy Security in the Black Sea Region

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 27-09-2010
External author: Arnaud DUBIEN, Director of Research, IRIS, Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques / Jordi VAQUER I FANÉS, Director, CIDOB, the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs
Policy area: Energy | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: regional security | Black Sea | the EU's international role | regional cooperation | Turkey | Russia | Moldova | Ukraine | Caucasus countries | maritime safety
Summary: The briefing note examines security and energy security issues around the Black Sea from a regional perspective and assesses the potential of Black Sea cooperation to increase security in the region. It identifies several drivers for change in the Black Sea security environment, including the radical change in relations between Russia and Ukraine under Viktor Yanukovych’s presidency, the new Turkish foreign policy, a more active phase in all of the formerly-dubbed ‘frozen’ conflicts, a renewed focus on naval balance and maritime security and the race for control over the south-eastern route of gas supply into Europe. Threats are grouped into three kinds: those related to competition among the great powers in the region, the potential flashpoints which could at any time trigger a major crisis and the transnational threats and risks that are of concern to all the Black Sea countries (e.g. terrorism, state failure, organised crime).

Regional cooperation can contribute towards containing these threats and risks and transforming the security environment around the Black Sea. The European Union can and should play a more active role in shaping this environment. For instance, an EU-led initiative for breaking the isolation of the populations of non-recognised territories could contribute to a better regional environment; greater engagement with Russia and Turkey on Black Sea security issues could be further enhanced, and finally, the EU should make an effort to pursue its diversification of gas supply without contributing to tensions in the region.

In-Depth Analysis EN

Cultural and Creative Industries

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 31-05-2007
External author: John Howkins, European Television Research & Co Edited par Rod Fisher, International Intelligence on Culture
Policy area: Culture | Intellectual Property Law | Industry
Keyword: economic growth | audiovisual industry | culture industry | innovation | cultural promotion | digital technology | international competition | intellectual property
Summary: This note reviews the European Commission study 'The Economy of Culture in Europe'. It provides a background to the issues treated in the study, assesses the study and recommends a political strategy, pointing out priorities for EU action with a view to fostering the cultural and creative industries.

In-Depth Analysis EN, FR
The European Union and Less-Used Languages

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-07-2002
External author: Joan Becat, Dimitris Christopoulos, Jarno Lainio, Marc Leprêtre, Peter Nelde, Padraig O Riagain, Antoni Strubell, Constantinos Tsitsselikis, Jaume Vernet, Sergi Vilaró, Aina Villalonga, Nico Weber, Peter Weber and Glyn Williams (CIEMEN - Centre International Escarré per a les Minories Ètniques i les Nacions)

Policy area: Culture | Education
Keyword: project evaluation | EU action | cultural pluralism | regional language | minority language

Summary: In many parts of the European Union there are indigenous groups who speak a language different to that of the majority of the population of the state. It is estimated that nearly 40 million citizens of the Union regularly use a regional or minority language that has been passed on from generation to generation. The study is divided into two parts. Part one describes the initiatives taken at EU level to support regional and minority languages over the last ten years as well as an evaluation of the projects funded by the EU. It also discusses which Articles in the Treaty can provide a legal basis for Community actions in this area following the ECJ judgement of 12 May 1998. Finally, it puts forward conclusions and recommendations concerning improvements. Part two contains a brief analysis of the present state of the minority language communities in the following seven of the EU Member States: Greece, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom.


Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 25-01-2010
External author: Gaidz MINASSIAN (Group of Political Analysis of the Université Paris Ouest, France ; Sciences-Po Paris, France)

Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | poverty | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | EU relations | Armenia | political situation | institutional reform | corruption | regional development | economic situation

Summary: Against the background of intensified EU-Armenian relations, the National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2011-2013 is a coherent tool in its political, economic and social priorities. It is suited to the needs of the country but uneven in its orientations. The amount of EU contribution has indeed increased since it came from 98,4 million € for the 2007-2010 period to 157,7 million € for the 2011-2013 period. However, in the institutional sector, the programme barely evokes the matter of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, although it is crucial in Armenia for the formation of a democratic state and it is one of the 2007-2013 Country Strategy Paper (CSP) priorities. The corruption fight is seen as the strong point of the programme, but there is no indication on its modus operandi against monopolies and the opaque ties between the authorities and their « entrepreneur friends ». In the economic sector, the programme recommends the diversification of the Armenian market and evokes the possible launch of negotiations on the signature of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) once conditions are fulfilled. However, the part allocated in this sector is in the weakest of the three priorities. The NIP has taken into account the normalisation of relationships between Armenia and Turkey although the process remains uncertain because indexed to a very complex strategic and political context. On the social sector, the struggle against poverty, regional development and the communication infrastructures modernization are the three key points of the NIP; yet, all the powers remain concentrated in the hands of central institutions, suspicious towards redistribution of authority, competences and resources to local authorities.


Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 11-02-2009
External author: Sergio Carrera (Head of Section and Research Fellow) and Anaïs Faure Atger (Researcher), Centre for European Policy Studies, Justice and Home Affairs Section

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Social Policy | Transposition and Implementation of Law
Keyword: EU national | application of EU law | Community migration | European citizenship | residence permit | free movement of persons

Summary: This Briefing Paper examines the main dilemmas that prevent EU citizens and their family members from fully enjoying their freedom of movement-related rights on the basis of Directive 2004/38 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States. It assesses the most relevant deficits in the transposition of the Directive in light of the answers and data provided by the National Parliaments of 11 EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain) to the questionnaire prepared by the Committee on Civil Liberties and Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament.
Multiplication Effects of Direct and Indirect Instruments to Complement National Funding

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2005
External author: Elizabeth Villagómez, Emma Oteo Antuñano (Almenara Estudios Económicos y Sociales, S.L.) and ECOTEC Research & Consulting (Madrid Office for various inputs and technical assistance)
Policy area: Budget | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: co-financing | coordination of financing | EU aid | EU financing arrangements | State aid | action programme
Summary: The study provides concrete examples of multiplication effects of EU direct and indirect financing and discusses advantages and disadvantages of the different instruments of intervention. It assesses for each example their impact and formulates recommendations for conducting such projects, in particular in view of enhancing the leverage effect of the instruments.

The examples examined include - direct financing models: rural development: LEADER II - establishment of community councils, Ireland; environment: URBAN II – programme d'initiative communautaire URBAN (PIC URBAN), France; research: the V and VI framework programme (FP5 and FP6) for research and development - (SOSS, smart organisation of small services), Italy - France – Spain); trans European networks: Madrid – Barcelona French border high speed line, Spain and France; innovative measures under article 6 of the European social fund – futurisme ii (SMES), Belgium, Austria, Germany, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom; - indirect financing models: loans and/or guarantees: application of solar thermal energy in the Mediterranean basin (MEDA - ASTEMB), Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestinian authority and Lebanon; FEMIP (facility for euro-mediterranean investment and partnership), financed by EIB, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Malta, Cyprus, Israel, Gaza-West Bank and Turkey; - mixed financing model: ERDF: “Improvement of naval port infrastructures”, Spain.

Study: EN
Executive summary: EN, FR

Social Consequences of Deregulation and Liberalisation in the Transport Sector of the EU

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-01-1998
External author: TEMA, Grupo Consultor S.A., Madrid
Policy area: Environment | Transport | Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Industry
Keyword: single market | transport infrastructure | transport safety | liberalisation of the market | environmental protection | deregulation | common transport policy | working conditions | competition | small and medium-sized enterprises
Summary: The study covers this subject by mode of transport and by country.

Study: DE, EN, FR
Executive summary: XL

Security Aspects of the South Stream Project

Publication type: Study
Date: 23-10-2008
External author: Zeyno Baran (Center for Eurasian Policy - CEP, Hudson Institute)
Policy area: Energy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: energy supply | Caspian Sea | EU relations | natural gas | gas pipeline | Turkmenistan | Russia | Ukraine | Azerbaijan | Italy
Summary: South Stream is a joint project by the Russian firm Gazprom and the Italian company Eni to develop a pipeline to transport gas to European markets. If it is constructed, the impact of South Stream, projected to be the most expensive pipeline ever built, will be significant not only for Europe’s energy supplies, but also for its security and its foreign relations. This paper aims to provide an insight into security-related issues in the context of this planned project. It is intended as a background document for use by the Committee on Foreign Policy during its deliberations and its preparation of a report on this subject.

Study: EN

Smes in European Contract Law

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 05-07-2007
External author: Prof.Dr. Martijn W Hesselink, Centre for the Study of European Contract Law, The University of Amsterdam
Policy area: Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Consumer Protection | Industry
Keyword: consumer protection | small and medium-sized enterprises | contract
In-Depth Analysis: EN
Chinese Resources and Energy Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa

Publication type Study
Date 11-06-2007
External author Jonathan Holslag, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Policy area Environment | Energy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword energy supply | exploitation of resources | corporate social responsibility | mining industry | sub-Saharan Africa | economic development | environmental protection | development aid | coal industry | China
Summary This report concludes that China has embarked on a well-conceived go-out policy that should enable Chinese companies to gain direct control over African natural resources. The strategy has resulted in a rapidly accelerating flow of African commodities to the People's Republic, despite the fact that China's equity projects in Africa remain limited. The Chinese resources and energy policy tends to confirm the conception of Africa as the world’s mining pit. However, only a small number of African countries reap substantial rewards. Moreover, if we go beyond the national trade statistics, it appears that political elites profit most and that new opportunities are unlikely to trickle down or to benefit sectors other than the primary sector. With regard to the EU's Africa policy, China's resources and energy policy undermines both the conditional engagement approach and the actorness of the EU as an international player. Finally, the study contains recommendations to the European Union.

European Voluntary Service for Young People

Publication type Study
Date 01-10-1997
External author Serena Foresi
Policy area Education
Keyword non-governmental organisation | legal status | EU action | youth movement | voluntary work | voluntary organisation | young person | European citizenship
Summary This study seeks to describe the implementation, aims and operation of the EVS programme and also outlines the obstacles encountered during implementation, in particular the lack of legal status for volunteers and organisation at Community level in this field. It also contains proposals and measures seeking to overcome these obstacles. Part of the study deals with voluntary service in general, in order to present an overall view of the voluntary sector at Community level. The second part of the document deals with relations between the EVS programme and the compulsory national service applicable in some Member States.

'Conflict Traps' - The Economic Dimension and Impact of Natural Resources and Elections on Conflicts

Publication type Briefing
Date 04-07-2008
External author Paul Collier (Centre for the Study of African Economies, Department of Economics, Oxford University)
Policy area Environment | Economics and Monetary Issues | Democracy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword poverty | natural resources | election | peacekeeping | international cooperation | redevelopment aid | democracy | civil war | commodity price
Summary Introduction Violent internal conflict inflicts death, disease and displacement upon the mass of ordinary people who are not active participants. It also inflicts large and persistent economic costs, and so is ‘development in reverse’. Finally, it is an illegitimate means of political change whose typical political legacy is deterioration in human rights, and a heightened risk of further violent conflict. Historically, post-conflict situations have had a 40% rate of relapse into civil war within the first decade.

Assessment of the European Union's macro-financial assistance (mfa) to third countries

Publication type Study
Date 17-03-2006
External author Mr Michael Emerson with assistance from Gergana Noutcheva and George Dura Centre for European Policy Studies Brussels
Policy area Budget | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword European neighbourhood policy | economic aid | Romania | Armenia | Serbia and Montenegro | Commonwealth of Independent States | Ukraine | audit | Bosnia and Herzegovina | balance of payments assistance | Kosovo | economic analysis | Tajikistan | Albania | Georgia | financial control | Moldova | general budget (EU) | North Macedonia
Study EN
Analysis of the external dimension of the European Union’s asylum and immigration policies’ – summary and recommendations for the European Parliament

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 08-06-2006
External author: Claire Rodier, Juriste, spécialisée dans les questions d’asile et d’immigration en France
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | EU migration policy | right of asylum | migratory movement | return migration | illegal migration | cooperation in home affairs
Summary: The external dimension of migration policy: an old problem. The various forms of externalisation of the asylum and immigration policy.
In-Depth Analysis: EN, FR

EU-Latin American Energy Cooperation

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2001
External author: IALE Tecnologia S.L., Barcelona, Spain
Policy area: Energy | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Keyword: energy supply | international cooperation | research and development | degradation of the environment | energy production | Latin America | regional development
Summary: This document is the final output of the research project commissioned by the European Parliament and carried out between November 2000 and January 2001.
Study: EN

A Background to European Economic Policy 2004

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-12-2003
External author: CEPS, Brussels
Keyword: budget deficit | liberalisation of the market | employment policy | competitiveness | energy policy | population ageing | knowledge economy | venture capital | economic analysis
Summary: This study provides a background for the preparation of the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines (BEPG) 2004 and assists the EP in putting forward recommendations for the BEPGs. The report looks at investment, industrial competitiveness in Europe, the economic benefits of the IT revolution, structural reforms, ageing and government finances, as well as the EU renewable energy policies. It also discusses the options for confidence building at the current economic juncture.
Study: EN

The Consequences of the "cut off" Criteria for Pesticides : Agronomic and Financial Aspects

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-12-2008
External author: Panayotis Theodoris (Representative of Greece to the group for pesticides of SCFH&AH)
Policy area: Environment | Agriculture and Rural Development | Industry
Keyword: dangerous substance | pesticides industry | environmental risk prevention | pesticide | market approval | soil protection
Summary: The current Commission proposal concerning "The placing on the market of plant protection products", updating Directive 91/414, and the E. Parliament first reading decision contain the 'cut-off' or exclusion criteria which, if adopted would have a devastating effect on farmers’ ability to grow a significant number of products. They do not recognise the critical importance of pesticides in controlling and eliminating crop diseases and pests and in increasing crop yields across the EU. The aim of the note is to assess the scale and magnitude of the potential losses for the EU farmers, in the case that the new regulation is adopted.
In-Depth Analysis: EN
Strategies for the EU Economy
Publication type Study
Date 01-02-2001
External author DIW, Germany; Observatoire Français des Conjonctures Economiques; LUISS G.Carli - Rome and University “La Sapienza” - Rome
Policy area Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword public investment | public-private partnership | market support | unemployment | economic recession | fight against unemployment | economic analysis
Summary Why in recent years has the European economy failed to keep pace with that of the United States? And why, as a result, has the unemployment rate been twice as bad? These three papers — presented to Parliament’s Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee at the beginning of 2000 — suggest reasons and remedies. The first looks at the US performance, and concludes that Europe has lessons to learn at both the macro and micro level. The second re-examines the idea of boosting investment through large-scale infrastructure projects. And the third analyses how faster economic growth can best be translated into jobs.
Study DE, EN, FR

A single market in financial services: effects on growth, employment and the real economy
Publication type Study
Date 01-09-2001
Author Simona AMATI
Policy area Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword merger control | single market | electronic commerce | financial market | credit institution | wholesale trade | social-security harmonisation | retail trade | financial services | new technology
Summary This paper examines the possible effects of current changes in financial markets on job creation and growth potential in the European Community. The first part analyses developments in the wholesale and the retail markets. The second focuses on the creation of a sound risk capital market in order to boost employment in Europe.
Study DE, EN, FR

Labour Costs and Wage Policy Within EMU
Publication type Study
Date 01-03-1999
External author Daniel Gros, Carsten Hefeker
Policy area Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword labour market | Economic and Monetary Union | wage cost
Summary Developments in the labour market are perhaps crucial to the long-term success of EMU. This study analyses nominal and real wage convergence, the share of wages in national income, wage costs as a whole, and regional developments, and reaches a number of conclusions about the way in which these will be affected by monetary union.
Study DE, EN, FR
Annex I EN

Safety and the Causes of Accidents in the Fisheries Sector
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 01-10-2001
External author Rachid El Houdagui
Policy area Social Policy | Employment | Fisheries
Keyword working time | fisherman | accident prevention | occupational accident | fishing vessel | sea fishing | social security
Summary Fisheries is still one of the sectors with the highest risk of accidents. The causes of accidents vary widely, requiring specific regulations adapted to each case. The EU has two Directives (Directives 93/103/EC and 97/70/EC), but they only concern large vessels, i.e. +/-10% of the EU fishing fleet. Hence the importance of fresh legislation that should include all types of vessels.
In-Depth Analysis EN, FR
Perspectives of the Trade in textiles after the end of the quota system of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on 1 January 2005

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 05-01-2005
External author: Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels
Policy area: International Trade | Employment | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Keyword: market support | quantitative restriction | liberalisation of trade | textile industry | balance-of-payments deficit | trade agreement | market access

Summary: With the end of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing and the removal of all textiles and clothing quotas on 1 January 2005, the characteristics of global textile production patterns and trade flows will be substantially redesigned. This paper aims at evaluating the qualitative and quantitative impact of the removal of quotas by assessing the prospects for textile- and clothing-producing countries, as well as producers and consumers in the EU. The paper also takes account of linkages with other factors and it covers the impacts on employment and development. Several policy recommendations follow based on this analysis.

Crisis in Nepal and Response from the International Community

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-02-2006
External author: Sushil Pyakurel
Policy area: Democracy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: regional security | establishment of peace | government violence | censorship | political situation | local election | civil war | civilian victim | Nepal | political violence

Summary: Nepal, to compare with countries in Europe, is a little larger in area than Greece but with over 27 million people, it has more than twice the current population of Greece. One of the poorest countries in the world, Nepal is sandwiched between two giant neighbours: India, which surrounds Nepal’s borders on three sides, and China with whom Nepal has its border on the North. The mystical Shangri-la as it was known to the international community for its beautiful Himalayas and abundant natural beauty has for the past decade witnessed unprecedented violence in its history as well as political, social and economic turmoil precipitating to a situation today that is alarmingly close to a total collapse of the state.

European Union Action in the Tourism Sector - Improving Support Measures for Sustainable Tourism

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2002
External author: Herbert Hamele (Ecotrans e.V. of Saarbrücken, Germany)
Policy area: Environment | Tourism
Keyword: equitable tourism | ecological tourism | EU action | service industry | tourism policy | tourist region

Summary: The report is based on the analysis of a number of documents from the EU and the industry relevant to the nature of the tourism sector, policy-making issues, and the more general area of sustainable development. The introduction to the report outlines the process of sustainable tourism. It briefly discusses the effects of the 11th September, and provides a brief overview of the European tourism industry and its place in the global economy. The first part of the report presents options on EU policy improvements that would facilitate the move towards this process. A total of 26 recommendations are suggested, alongside a systemic methodology to guide their implementation. The second Part of the report examines the arguments and evidence behind the policy improvement recommendations. It separates current EC funding programmes and EC sustainable development strategies, demonstrating current types of support measures for sustainable tourism. Evidence from four Member States (Germany, the UK, Portugal and Italy) is presented in this section to augment the perspective from which to view the policy recommendations of Part A. A series of Annexes support the document, including the reports from the four countries and information on EU funding programmes.
Use of New Technologies and Cost of Water in View of the New EU Water Directive

Publication type Study
Date 01-02-2000
External author George Kallis (ERN, Athens)
Policy area Environment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword pollution control measures | water management | conservation of resources | water protection | pollution | new technology | water

Summary EU water policy is at a critical crossroad. Following more than two decades of environmental water policy a new framework directive is being discussed in the EU institutions that will shape both the Commission's and national efforts in the field of water for years to come. Past EU water directives have had momentous effects in transforming organisations/institutions and approaches in Member States and promoting technological progress in pollution control. Europe’s water bodies, however, steadily deteriorate mainly due to pollution from diffuse sources. The long-term sustainability of water uses for human and environmental purposes is threatened.

The new EU water framework directive aims to integrate action for water management both at an EU level and at a national level, by asking for the establishment of river basin authorities and plans. The general objective is to achieve within a set time an acceptable environmental quality for all waters within the Union’s territory. The costs entailed are high and difficult to estimate in advance given the lack of adequate monitoring. These costs come in an era when improvements in drinking and waste water treatment capacities are increasingly reflected in water prices. The study reviews the implementation of past EU water policy and raises the challenges for EU water policy in the 21st century. The proposal for a framework directive on water is critically discussed and its strengths and weaknesses are identified. The problems with calculating the costs and benefits of EU water policy are highlighted and empirical evidence from national information and two case studies in the U.K are used to give an indication of the magnitude of the costs. The effects on water prices are subsequently analysed. The issue of integrating quantitative and qualitative aspects in EU water policy is raised and it is demonstrated that the directive fails to recognise the emerging importance of water conservation approach.

Study EN

Prison Technologies (An Appraisal of Technologies for Political Control)

Publication type Study
Date 01-07-2000
External author Luc Mampaey (GRIP, Brussels, Belgium)
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Security and Defence | Industry
Keyword protection of privacy | video surveillance | prisoner | non-lethal weapon | personal data | mental health | new technology | prison system

Summary The present study is in line with the extension of a previous STOA research, published in 1997 and entitled “An appraisal of technologies of political control” (PE 166.499). The report highlighted the appearance of a trend in Europe to privatize the prison system. Furthermore, it outlined the pressures to which the public authorities are subjected to substitute technological innovations for prison personnel, with a view to reducing costs and fighting against prison overcrowding. The present report works towards five aims: (1) to give the European Parliament a description of the most recent technologies, used or usable in prison environment and determine their degree of penetration in the European Union; (2) to assess the efficiency of these technologies in relation with their objectives; (3) to analyse the impact of their use on detainees and their relatives, especially having in mind the already carried out experiments; (4) to identify the dangers and risks they involve regarding the respect of fundamental freedoms; (5) to present political options and recommendations to the European Parliament, in order for it to take adequate initiatives aiming at protecting the rights of people placed under surveillance or detention, while preserving European interests.

Two replies are usually offered to the problems of overcrowding and growth of the costs of the penal system: privatization of the penal function and use of new technologies; one often entailing the other. This phenomenon, prompted by an American conception of order and security, influences today the European debates on the reform of the penal system and leads to the introduction of two types of technologies in the prisons: surveillance technologies and neutralization technologies.

Study EN

Impact of Privatisation of the Public Sector on Developing Countries

Publication type Study
Date 01-02-2001
External author Bruno Losch (Cirad-Tera)
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword poverty | economic liberalism | market organisation | developing countries | privatisation | development plan | economic reform | debt reduction

Summary The results of privatisation in developing countries have proven very disappointing. Many obstacles which have appeared are related both to the characteristics of the economic, social and institutional environment and to the practical conditions of their implementation. The analysis based on case studies of privatisation of agricultural sectors and services makes it possible to present a nuanced evaluation, to highlight several recurrent characteristics of ongoing reforms and to propose a series of general and operational recommendations.

Study EN
**European Sea Port Policy**

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-04-1999
Author: Franco PIODI
Policy area: Transport | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: harbour installation | maritime transport | privatisation | deregulation | common transport policy
Summary: The European ports which have a future role as inter-modal platforms have over the last decade undergone a significant process of liberalisation and technological development. The growth which has resulted has been accompanied by over-capacity problems.

Study: EN, FR

**Principal International Arms Control Conventions**

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 01-03-1997
Author: Sacha POLVERINI | Thomas GRUNERT
Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: arms control | international convention | disarmament
Summary: This working document summarizes the development and current state of the main international treaties and conventions on arms control and disarmament (Conventional Forces in Europe, nuclear non-proliferation, ban on nuclear testing, limitation of anti-missile defence systems, reduction of strategic arms - START, anti-personnel mines, chemical weapons and open skies).

In-Depth Analysis: ES, DE, EN, FR, IT

**EU Structural Policy Indicators for the Identification of Problem Regions**

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-09-1998
External author: Roger Tym and Partners (London, the UK)
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: Structural Funds | eligibility criteria | eligible region | economic indicator | regional development
Summary: This study is intended as background paper on the ongoing structural policy reform discussions on the compatibility between National and European regional policies.

Study: EN, FR

**Assessment of Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Techniques for Combating Hunger and Poverty**

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-12-1999
External author: Jean-Marc Broussard et Saïd Sassi (INRA)
Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Keyword: poverty | developing countries | access to education | economic growth | environmental protection | agricultural production | health service | housing | hunger | social mobility
Summary: Poverty is a very real evil, even if it is difficult to define and measure. There are ways of combating poverty – by improving food security, by allowing the poor access to certain types of capital goods like housing and by encouraging social mobility through education and health services. Poverty is often associated with overpopulation. However the relationship between demography and poverty is complex and action to combat poverty is one of the solutions that could be envisaged for reestablishing the demographic balance. The experience of the green revolution in Asia demonstrates that poverty is not inevitable.

Study: EN

**Estudio comparativo y prospectivo sobre la Unión Europea, el Tratado de libre comercio (TLCAN), el Mercosur y el área de libre comercio de las Américas (ALCA)**

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-08-1999
External author: Dr Dilcia FIGUEROA
Policy area: International Trade | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Summary: Dans un premier temps, l’étude examine les objectifs de ces groupes, leur capacité d’adaptation dans un nouveau cadre politique et économique au sein du processus de mondialisation et la manière dont le futur élargissement de l’UE les affectera. Elle procède à une évaluation critique des relations actuelles établies entre ces groupes régionaux et définit les domaines qu’il y a lieu d’améliorer. Sont également examinées les principales positions adoptées par le Parlement européen sur les relations entre ces groupes. L’étude s’achève sur une série de conclusions et de propositions visant à renforcer les liens entre ces différents groupes politiques et économiques régionaux.

Study: ES
Executive summary: XL
To maximise the potential of the mountainous regions of Europe the framework of current European policies in this sector must be improved. The report advocates an integrated and flexible approach, making it possible to adapt to the diversity of these areas, taking account of their differing economic, environmental and sociological aspects.